

No 3,766

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 1998

(1R50p) 45p



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IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW

# Brown pledge on debt relief

A TWO-YEAR worldwide moratorium on debt repayments by Third World countries stricken by Hurricane Mitch was demanded last night by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as Britain spearheaded moves to alleviate suffering in the devastated areas of Central America.

The Chancellor's initiative followed a hurried round of talks with Tony Blair, leaders of the International Monetary Fund, and Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, who last weekend had described wiping out the debt problems as "irrelevant" to the areas present suffering.

Announcing an increase to £10m in its emergency aid to countries such as Honduras and Nicaragua, which were hit by one of the most deadly hurricanes of the century, the Chancellor said he was also proposing

BY COLIN BROWN AND RUPERT CORNWELL

would not go as far as wiping out the debt, which some activists have demanded. Flanked by Ms Short, Mr Brown said countries hit by the hurricane should be eligible to join an aid programme aimed at assisting debt repayment.

"The needs of the Central American countries are now being heard throughout the world and we want to do what we can and play our full part with the rebuilding of the economies. We are proposing to the World Bank that a new trust fund be set up to help the Central American economies and we are prepared to contribute £10m.

"We also believe a new facility should be created to help rebuild the shattered economies and that what we proposed for post-conflict economies in Africa we want for these economies as well," Mr Brown said.

Britain's proposals were just part of a gathering international relief effort yesterday, as the sheer immensity of the disaster wreaked by Hurricane Mitch became clear.

France, which plans a similar contribution to the World Bank, announced it would cancel all bilateral debt owed it by Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador, while the new German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, also urged some debt to be forgiven the affected countries.

Pledges of aid rolled in from the US, which is promising \$70m (\$42m), and from the European Union, whose members have already committed \$122m - a sum that could rise sharply. Both Spain and Sweden are talking of giving more than \$100m for immediate aid and future reconstruction.

Oxfam welcomed Mr Brown's proposal, saying a debt moratorium would give a breathing space. "But a breathing space which must be used to pave the way for long-term investment and reconstruction."

Other aid organisations were more outspoken. "We feel the debts should be written off," said Jenny Borden of Christian Aid.

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to the World Bank "suspension of world debt payments so that countries are given the best chance to rebuild".

But officials denied the Government was performing a U-turn on debt repayment after protests from aid campaigners over Ms Short's remarks. "What Clare said was right but because of the outspoken way she says things, she gets attacked. The way it came out clouded the fact that we support action on debt relief," said a senior Whitehall source.

The Chancellor's private talks with other nations, including France, suggest there is a strong mood in favour of the British proposal.

But the British initiative

# 80 years on, an ex-soldier remembers his friends and asks: 'Was it worth it?'



Robbie Burns, 102, stands in front of the Menin Gate in Ypres which commemorates those who fell in World War One

Brian Horris

AN OLD MAN, frail but still standing tall, stepped forward from the crowd of onlookers yesterday morning to do what he always does at this time of year. With regimental cap firmly on his head, and medals hanging heavy from his top pocket, he bent forward to lay a wreath "From All London Scots", at the monument to his old comrades.

There is also the particularly sad fact to be faced that Harold and the five other veterans on his trip may not all return. Sometimes, he says, he also thinks about how his friends died. Like the man with whom he joined the Army, at 18, who was killed on his first day in action.

He has no difficulty remembering how the two were sent forward as wire-cutters when

BY JOHN DAVISON in Ypres

since he first revisited the battlefields near Ypres just eight years after the guns finally fell silent. But he always has the same thoughts. "I just think of the boys, friends that I lost," he says. This year, of course, is special, with today marking the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

The American rights to Miss Lewinsky's story have been the subject of much wrangling. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey offered \$1m but negotiations fell apart when Miss Lewinsky's

an ineffective artillery barrage had left the enemy's barbed wire intact. How they completed their task to allow the boys "to get through". How he had to leave his dead pal Fred in the rush forward.

"You just carry on and join in with it all. Once you're on the move you all go together," he says, speaking in the present tense as though it were still going on. "You mustn't stop."

He also still knows why he joined in 1917, as soon as he was 18. With conscription coming in he wanted to be a volunteer and to choose his regiment in line with his Scottish background.

"I do things willingly, but I hate to be forced," he says. There is still fierceness behind the old, glowering eyes.

While he jokes and describes himself as "still a bit of a fool",

there is also just a hint of bitterness.

Yesterday, he was having another thought. "Was it all worthwhile?" he said, pointing out that this was not, after all, the war to end all wars.

"You'd think politicians would have learnt their lesson," he added. "They may have done if they'd had a basinful of it like we did."

Robbie Burns, 102 tomorrow and the last surviving member of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, said he had no difficulty remembering it all - from the day he joined in 1914 until he was demobbed five years later.

"I will never forget the other people that were with me. I have my leg to remind me every day," he said, referring to

Turn to page 2

# Lewinsky to break silence on Clinton

MONICA LEWINSKY is set to break her silence on her affair with the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, in deals with British and American television. Channel 4 was last night on the brink of signing a £400,000 deal with the former Whitehouse intern, whose silence has enabled her lawyers to instigate a global hiding war for her story.

The deal will give Channel 4

BY JANE ROBINS Media Correspondent

the rights to broadcast the interview in the UK and to sell it worldwide other than in America and Canada. It is likely to be conducted by newscaster Jon Snow, and would include an assurance that she will be frank about details of the affair.

Last night, the agreement had still not been signed, leaving room for competitors to make a bid. A Granada spokesman said that it was "still in serious negotiations". However, the amount of money has been agreed with Channel 4 and details on the lines of questioning were being ironed out.

Miss Lewinsky is said to want to tell her story before America's House Judiciary Committee releases tapes of her conversations about "the

big creep" with Linda Tripp, which could happen within two weeks. Her lawyers fear that once the world has heard her voice on the Tripp tapes, the mystery element of her testimony will be devalued.

The American rights to Miss Lewinsky's story have been the subject of much wrangling. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey offered \$1m but negotiations fell apart when Miss Lewinsky's

lawyers tried to retain the world syndication rights. The front-runner is now the ABC network, with the interview to be conducted by star interviewer Barbara Walters.

The pay-out to Ms Lewinsky is the first of its kind in Britain. "If this amount is really being paid this marks the beginning of American-style tabloid television in Britain," an executive at a rival TV company said.

Britain's biggest news interviews have been conducted by the BBC's Panorama and its presenter, Martin Bashir. The interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, drew nearly 23 million viewers, while Louise Woodward attracted fewer than 7 million. If Miss Lewinsky brings in 10 million viewers, it will be double the ratings Channel 4 secured for its top programme, the American sitcom Friends.

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Former cricketer Geoffrey Boycott is found guilty of assaulting his girlfriend. Home P3

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Five ships taking relief to Russia's Far East have to be abandoned in ice. Foreign P14

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Robert de Niro talks about facing up  
to his demons (and his new movie)

READ THE INTERVIEW IN TOMORROW'S FILM SECTION

THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DONALD MACINTYRE, ANNE MCILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD

■ VIRGINIA IRONSIDE  
'WHAT CAN I DO WHEN  
MY BABY CRIES?'■ PLUS LAW AND  
FAST TRACKLawyers face  
jail over links  
with fraudsters

LAWYERS AND accountants who fail to tip off the police about clients they suspect are laundering money face up to five years in jail, under government proposals announced yesterday.

Suspected major criminals could also have assets worth more than £10,000 seized by the courts as part of sweeping changes to confiscation and money laundering laws. The police plan to use Inland Revenue tax files to help them target criminals who hide their money in legitimate businesses and offshore banks.

The initiative follows growing frustration among law enforcers that criminal "Mr Bigs" are able to live lavish lifestyles funded by drug dealing, counterfeiting and smuggling without fear of prosecution.

A Home Office working group yesterday published proposals to force all professionals, business and trades people to tell the police if they know, or suspect, that a client is engaged in money laundering. The new offence is aimed at solicitors and accountants, but financial advisers, bank managers, and estate agents could also be affected. Failure to report any suspicious transaction could result in a five year prison sentence and an unlimited fine. Now, the law only requires people to report suspicions that someone is laundering the proceeds of drug trafficking, or is engaged in terrorist fund-raising.

By JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Last year solicitors passed on information in 236 cases and accountants gave details of 44. This compares with more than 10,000 involving building societies and banks.

Robert Roscoe, a council member of the Law Society, which represents 78,000 solicitors in England and Wales, argued that the numbers of referrals were low "because cases involving money laundering are rare".

John Abbott, the director general of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said an exchange of information with the Inland Revenue, whose files have traditionally been secret, would be important.

Liberty, the civil rights group, however, argued that the proposals "undermine the presumption of innocence" and violate human rights legislation.

The proposals, which are going out to consultation, will cover England and Wales and could become law by 2000.



Curator Chris Gravett cleaning a 17th century exhibit at the Royal Armouries in the Tower of London, which has just completed an eight-year 'redisplay' programme Peter J Jordan

US pledges  
'will wreck'  
Kyoto deal

AMERICA WILL not be able to keep the promises it made at Kyoto last year to fight global warming, the man who negotiated the original world treaty on climate change for the United States said yesterday.

It has pledged to make cuts in its emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that are simply too enormous to be achieved, Robert Reinstein, a former senior official in the US State Department, said.

Ministers from 180 countries, including Britain's Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, are meeting in Buenos Aires to try to take the Kyoto agreement forward.

"The Americans made a mistake at Kyoto," Mr Reinstein said. "They signed up to something that is impossible to fulfil."

The result, he said, was that the Kyoto accord would eventually fail amidst world-wide re-arrangements and embassies, and the international process of trying to find an answer to global warming would be discredited.

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

Mr Reinstein, 58, who is attending the conference as a representative of the Canadian Electricity Association, was the US State Department's senior environmental official from 1990 to 1993. In 1992 he was the chief US negotiator on the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was signed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Kyoto agreement is a protocol to this treaty.

America, the world's biggest polluter, agreed at Kyoto to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide from cars and power stations, and five other greenhouse gases, to a figure 7 per cent below their 1990 level, by 2010.

But that figure, Mr Reinstein said, would represent up to a 30 per cent cut from where the US economy will have grown to a decade from now, which would simply not be deliverable.

In 1990, he said, the US emitted about 5.8 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases and it had promised to cut that back to 5.4 billion. But by 2010, it would be emitting about 7.2 billion tonnes if business continued as usual, and even with the best efforts of the whole country at energy efficiency it would still be emitting about 6.6 billion.

The shortfall of 1.2 billion tonnes could not even be covered by the US buying greenhouse gas emission credits

from other countries, he said - the so called "hot air" which is one of the principal points of contention at Buenos Aires.

America would like to buy as much as possible of the national "pollution allowances" available to countries such as Russia and the Ukraine, whose CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are already well below the targets given to them at Kyoto because in the Nineties their smokestack economies have collapsed.

The European Union and the world environment movement all want a firm ceiling on how much hot air the US can buy, so that it does not avoid taking steps to deal with its greenhouse gas emissions at home.

Britain's Kyoto target is to cut back to 12.5 per cent below its 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by 2010. This looks likely to be achieved, largely because of the "dash for gas" - the widespread replacement of coal-fired power stations by gas fired ones, which emit less CO<sub>2</sub>.

The evidence for the approach of global warming is continuing to mount. This year is already certain to be the hottest year in the 150-year-long record of world temperatures.

Mr Prescott said last night of Mr Reinstein's comments: "That's all if it is... what is clear is that to do nothing is not acceptable, and even if the Americans were only to achieve half their target that's got to be an advance."

Ypres veteran  
asks: 'Was it  
worth it?'

From front page

the wound he received on the Somme. He is also one of the last survivors of the Battle of Loos, in 1915, which he said, "was just as bad".

He was speaking from beneath the awe-inspiring Menin Gate at Ypres where the 54,000 dead, with no known grave, from that sector alone are commemorated.

"The more visits I make the more touching it seems to be. Because there are so few of us left. To see them now, on the way out..." and then his voice trailed away.

Asked what he thought of it all now, Mr Burns replied only that as simple soldiers they just had to do what they were told. "We just lived from day to day - despite the cold and hunger and nightmares and everything else, just hoping to goodness it would be over any day."

As a Royal Signaller aged 30, Arthur Halestrap was listening in on the wireless when the Armistice announcement was made and the bells began to chime.

Serving with the 46th Midlands Division in their final

battles for the Hindenburg Line and beyond, he reports a surprising reaction.

"Everything went quiet, eerily quiet. There was such a relaxation to the point where life seemed to be empty. There was nothing to do," he said. "We were completely lost, but it was only temporary."

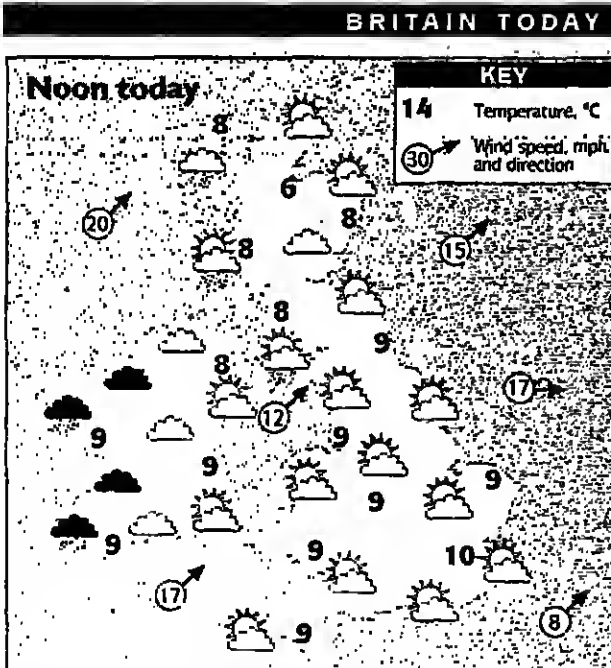
His subsequent reactions to the war and to his own visits to the battlefields have been more predictable, and were just as eloquently expressed.

"When I come back here, all I can think of is the tens of thousands of men of my own generation who died in terrible, terrible circumstances - hanging off barbed wire for days in some cases with their legs being shot trying to rescue them," he said. "And I think that these young men had volunteered and died for an ideal - the preserving of our own country and the safety of loved ones at home."

Then he is interrupted by someone wanting him to sign a visitors' book. He simply records his name, number and unit.

"That's how I do that," he said.

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**FORECAST**  
General situation Western Scotland will be rather cold and blustery with sunny intervals and showers at first, but the showers will slowly die out. Eastern Scotland will be dry and bright after some early ground frost. Northern Ireland will have some sunnier spells, but rain and strong winds will arrive before evening. England and Wales will start cold with any early fog and frost lifting to leave sunny spells. The south and east will stay bright, but the west will cloud over with rain threatening by dusk.

Channel Is, Case S & SE England, Midlands, E Anglia, East N & NE England. Any local fog and frost will lift to leave a dry and bright day. A light west to south-westerly breeze. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

SW England, W Wales: Dry and bright this morning, but clouding over with a risk of rain by evening. A light to moderate southerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).

W Wales, NW England: A bright, chilly morning, but it will cloud over this afternoon. A light to moderate south to south-westerly wind. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

N Ireland, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Sunny intervals and only isolated showers this morning, but it will turn cloudy from the west this afternoon with rain by the evening. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, W & N Ireland: A lot of cloud and a few showers, although most of the showers will die out this afternoon with a few bright sunny intervals. A strengthening south to south-westerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

Edinburgh, SE & NE Scotland, Aberdeen: Mainly dry and bright after early ground frost. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 5-10C (41-50F).

**OUTLOOK**  
Overnight rain will linger in Scotland on Thursday, but elsewhere it will brighten up with sunny spells and showers. More wind and rain will spread from the west on Friday, before the weather turns much colder and more wintry over the weekend.

**TRAVEL**  
London: A1: Finlay Rd. From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B1: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B2: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B3: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B4: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B5: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B6: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B7: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B8: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B9: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. Major works at Finchley Rd junction. Until 31st December. B10: From Swiss Cottage to Rye Lane. 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# 'The gunfire was phenomenal. There were 10 bullets embedded in the wall'

BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND MARY BRAID

A BRITISH electrician, who escaped a gun attack on an Angolan mine, in which two Britons died and another was taken hostage, yesterday described how he hid under a blanket for almost 90 minutes while bullets ricocheted around his room.

Robin Butler, 53, said the attack by 50 gunmen on the Canadian owned DiamondWorks was launched at about 4.45am on Sunday. Private Angolan security guards employed by DiamondWorks, returned fire and a battle ensued.

"The Sun was just rising but there was a mist," said Mr Butler, whose family live in Gibraltar. "I was in the shower and about to have breakfast. When the shooting started I ran back to my room and hid on the floor under the blanket."

"The gunfire was phenomenal. It went on for an hour and a half. At the end I counted 10 bullets embedded in the wall."

"At two different points Unita soldiers looked into the room. Neither saw me, but the second stole a pair of Doc Marten boots. Later I looked out the window and could see my car on fire in the compound."

Mr Butler was discovered by two local miners who were taking advantage of the chaos to do a little looting.

They handed him over to two men wearing the uniform of the rebel Unita army who tried to force him to open the mine safe where diamonds are stored. When he told them he had no keys they tried to force it with steel bars.

When the rebels took flight amid new gunfire he refused to go with them. "They drove off I hid in a container." Eventually a passing lorry took him to a nearby village, and safety.

Recovering in his hotel room in the Angolan capital Luanda yesterday he said he felt very sad for the families of those who were lost or missing. He had not seen any of the other Britons after the shooting began.

Alan Thomas, 49, from Liverpool, West Yorkshire, and a mine engineer, David Boule, 26, from Bracknell in Berkshire, were killed, and Jason Pope, 26, was kidnapped along with four other workers.

"Everybody scattered and made their way the best they could. Unfortunately some were killed trying to get away." Asked how terrified he had



From top: Jason Pope was kidnapped, but Alan Thomas and David Boule died in the attack. The resurgence of attacks by rebels means that mining areas are extremely dangerous Harriet Logan/Network

been Mr Butler said "I am a Christian. I trust in the Lord."

In addition to the two British victims, a Portuguese employee and three Angolans, including a representative of the state diamond company, also died and 18 Angolans were wounded.

Yesterday Angolan government troops were combing the jungles around the mine in the remote village of Yetwene, 600 km east of Luanda, for Mr Pope and four other hostages including two Filipino mechanics and a South African metallurgist. Yetwene is close to the Congo border.

Rebels from Unita (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), who are slipping back into all-out war with the Angolan government just four years after they ended a 20-year civil war, were being blamed.

But some reports suggested

that the attackers were dressed, confusingly, in both Unita rebel uniforms and those of the Angolan army.

Last night, Bruce Walsham, the chief executive of DiamondWorks, and the British businessman Tony Buckingham, who is a major shareholder in the company, were flying to Luanda.

The controversial Mr Buckingham is also "patron" to the London-based security consultants Sandline, which was at the centre of the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair that rocked the British government earlier this year.

Mr Buckingham is part of a new generation of businessmen who provide foreign governments with military help and then benefit from mineral concessions.

He has had close connections with the leadership in

Angola for more than a decade. In 1993, the government paid Executive Outcomes, a mercenary company associated with Mr Buckingham, to drive Unita forces out of key strategic areas.

In 1996, following negotiations, DiamondWorks obtained mining concessions from the government. Yetwene was the most recent concession.

Yesterday Richard Cornwall, of the South African Institute for Security Studies, said Unita was probably responsible for the murderous attack, but that the country was once so lawless that bandits or a renegade rebel group might also have carried it out.

DiamondWorks financed Unita's 20-year war with the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). The MPLA became the government in Angola after a

peace deal was finally brokered between it and Unita in 1994. As one observer put it "the only game in town".

Following the peace accord Unita withdrew from the mining producing areas in return for government promises of proper concessions. After the government reneged on its promise Unita renewed its guerrilla attacks.

The resurgence in Unita attacks has meant that these mining areas are extremely dangerous. Movement is difficult as the terrain is rough and the roads poor. Now Unita

and bandits make random attacks on vehicles using the roads. Mine staff and supplies mainly come and go by helicopter.

Foreign-owned diamond companies operating in Unita-controlled areas are in increasing danger. When the rebels attack them, they hit the government's coffers, and undermine its ability to rule.

When the mine came under attack the company apparently received no help from a local government army base for some hours and the compound was only secured when private security reinforcements arrived.

A renewal of hostilities could be similarly protracted and just as destructive. There is no certainty that the government would win. In sending troops into neighbouring Congo, to prop up the government of President Laurent Kabila, the Angolan government has left itself over-stretched and vulnerable.

Unita's leader, Jonas Savimbi, is almost certainly taking advantage of the situation.

The Angolan murders bring home the perils of working in

unstable situations overseas. Yesterday David Boule's father Thomas, 49, said his son had tried to reassure his parents that his work was safe.

"He would not take suicidal risks but he had a spirit of adventure," Mr Boule said of his son who gained a first-class honours degree in mining engineering at the University of Exeter in 1996.

But earnings abroad, especially in dangerous situations, are lucrative. Asked if he would return to Angola, Robin Butler said yesterday, without any hesitation, "I'll go back".

## Boycott found guilty of assaulting woman friend

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
AND GARY FINN

GEOFFREY BOYCOTT was found guilty of assault for a second time yesterday when a French judge decided that the former England opening batsman had made a brutal attack on his girlfriend in an Antibes hotel two years ago. He was fined £5,300 and given a three months suspended jail sentence.

The cricketer-turned-commentator immediately appealed against the conviction. He also made a side-swipe against the court in Grasse, south-east France. "In the view of the way the trial was conducted," he said, "I suppose it is not a total surprise."

Speaking from Pakistan, where he was commenting on the Australian cricket tour for Rupert Murdoch's Star TV, he added: "When I went to see Fatal Attraction [a movie about a vengeful, jilted lover] I never thought it could happen to me."

While Boycott appears confident of his future, there are black holes where contracts used to be. He no longer works for the BBC, there are no deals with Sky, and his contract with Trans World International, which feeds cricket coverage to local networks such as India and Pakistan - where the Cult of Boycott is strongest - ended at close of play in Lahore yesterday. There was a further blow last night when The Sun announced that his column would no longer be featured in the newspaper.

The proceedings in Grasse last month were rumbustious, chaotic, often baffling, almost out of control, but most independent observers present - including the massed ranks of the



Margaret Moore outside court in Grasse yesterday PA

British press corps - thought the cricket legend got a reasonable innings.

Perhaps too reasonable. Many of the 13 defence witnesses flown by Boycott to the south of France - at a cost estimated to have topped £200,000 - appeared to have nothing directly relevant to say.

The judge, Dominique Hamant-Daumas, indulged Boycott and his lawyer when they presented hours of muddled evidence from, among others, a psychiatrist who had never met the victim, Margaret Moore, 46. (He judged her, from television clips and conversations with a former husband, to be a "hysterical psychopath").

There were also three British women who travelled to

France at Mr Boycott's expense to say they had suffered similar injuries to Ms Moore - two black eyes, severe bruising on the face - just by falling over in the street or at home. If it was a circus, it was mostly a circus of Boycott's making.

After presiding over the 10-hour trial of "L'affaire Boycott", Judge Hamant-Daumas decided yesterday, in a delayed verdict, to deliver precisely the same judgment as another judge who conducted the original, ten-minute trial in January. The first trial was set aside because the 58-year-old former cricketer failed to turn up, saying he had a more important engagement: commenting on Test matches in South Africa.

Ms Moore, a divorcee with

two children, claimed Boycott punched her 20 times in the face, head and chest, holding her to the ground and staring at her with "wild, piercing and manic" eyes. Boycott insisted she fell over while throwing his shirt, shoes and underpants out of a hotel window during a quarrel.

In a seven-page written explanation of her verdict, the judge made it clear that Boycott's behaviour in court - telling Ms Moore's lawyer to "shut up" at one stage - had counted against him. "In the court, the accused didn't hesitate to interrupt rudely Mrs Moore's lawyer, tarnishing the image of the perfect gentleman which he brought his old friends and witnesses to testify to."

Judge Hamant-Daumas said the evidence presented to the court "did not support the theory of an accidental fall". She had decided that Ms Moore was the victim of "purposeful blows".

Ms Moore, who returned to Grasse for the judgment, said she was delighted with the verdict. "I am the victim here. He beat me three times in all. I want to urge every person who has suffered violence to report it to the police." She was, once again, awarded the 1 franc (10.5 pence) symbolic damages that she had requested.

The Third French Test - Mr Boycott's appeal - is expected to be heard in the Provencal appeal court at Aix-en-Provence at a date to be fixed next year.

In the meantime, Ms Moore is not holding out much hope that the Yorkshireman's Yorkshireman will pay her the damages. "I don't think I'll get my franc because he is a little tight-fisted," she said. "If I get a cheque I'll frame it and if I don't I'll send him a writ."



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# One in five male JPs is a Mason

ONE IN five male magistrates is a Freemason, according to the Government's first survey of the judiciary's membership of the secretive organisation.

Figures unveiled by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, showed that up to 19 per cent of male JPs and 4.9 per cent of judges were Masons. Lord Irvine told the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee there was "no evidence" whatsoever that a judge or magistrate had treated a fellow Freemason favourably. However, there was a widespread public perception that such unfairness occurred and it was important for them to declare membership in the interests of openness.

The survey by the Lord Chancellor's Department of 26,000 magistrates in England and Wales found that 1,097 JPs admitted membership, with 867 refusing to answer the question.

As women make up half of the total and are not allowed to join the brotherhood, the number of male magistrates who have declared their membership works out at 13.6 per cent, with 5.4 per cent declining to answer.

With a further 2,030 magistrates yet to respond to the survey, the figure could be even higher than one in five, MPs said. A similar survey of all 5,300 judges in England and Wales found that 247 admitted they were Freemasons.

A public register of individual judges and magistrates who declared their membership will be published by the Government next year.

The Lord Chancellor accepted that the survey had been "highly controversial" among the judiciary but it was clear that all judges should declare their masonic links in court if a fellow member of the code appeared

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

before them. "Although there is no evidence that any judge who was a Freemason had acted falsely to his judicial oath, there still exists a public perception," he said. "I think what feeds the public perception is that Freemasons accept an obligation to assist one another in times of trouble and when people are in court they are in trouble."

Chris Mullin, chairman of the committee, said that it could be reasonably assumed that most of those who refused to respond were indeed Masons. "A figure of one in five male magistrates, with no doubt significant regional variations, is not unrealistic," he said.

"There is a fair amount of public paranoia about Freemasons but they have only themselves to blame because they are so secretive."

Latest estimates put the number of Freemasons in the UK at 300,000, equivalent to just over 1 per cent of the male population.

Gerald Howarth, Tory MP for Aldershot and a member of the committee, said that the survey was "an appalling example of political correctness" that whipped up public prejudice against the organisation.

Mr Howarth said that the move was a "gross invasion of privacy" and pointed to comments by a senior judge, Lord Seville, who had recently compared the survey to the Vichy regime in France asking about a person's Jewish origins.

The Lord Chancellor also told the committee that he had not ruled in "or out" Labour's manifesto pledge to set up a judicial appointments commission to get more women and ethnic minority judges.



Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens in a scene from 'Britannicus' Gervant Lewis

# Set texts take to the stage as West End goes classic

SHAKESPEARE will soon be jostling with Racine in the West End of London. A sudden vogue for classical drama among audiences looks likely to change the theatre capital's reputation as the home to musicals and light comedy.

While television and radio are accused of dumbing down, theatre is going through an intellectually elevated phase.

Thelma Holt, a West End producer, will shortly announce that she is staging a production of *Macbeth*, starring Rufus Sewell in his first major Shakespearean role, and Sally Dexter at the Queen's Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue early next year. It will be only the third subsidised Shakespeare production on Shaftesbury Avenue since the Second World War.

Ms Holt said yesterday she had no qualms about investing her money in a Shakespeare production in the heart of the West End. "Quite simply no one has sent me a better play to put on," she said. "I've got a young company and I'm confident of attracting a young audience. There's a new hunger for serious theatre. And, despite opinion to the contrary, the young are going to the theatre whenever they can afford it."

At the Albery Theatre in St Martin's Lane, the Almeida company is playing to full houses every night with two plays by the 17th-century French dramatist, Jean Racine, in repertory and starring Dame Diana Rigg and Toby Stephens. One play, *Britannicus*, is delivered in Alexandrine couplets.

Michael Billington, the drama critic and biographer of Harold Pinter, described having two Racine plays in the West End as "a minor miracle".

But the miracle has had an unfortunate side-effect. Ironically, the vogue for classical drama has rebounded on one of the greatest directors of the genre, Sir Peter Hall, and is likely to deprive audiences of more high-class drama next year. He has been asked by the

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor



Sir Peter Hall: Casualty of the new drama vogue

commercial owners of The Old Vic to bring his company there next year and run the theatre with an artistic policy. But he revealed that when he asked the Arts Council for financial help, he was told there was already sufficient serious theatre in London.

Sir Peter said: "I have the actors and I have the programme. But I don't have the money. I have asked the Arts Council for a guarantee against loss - not a subsidy - of half a million

## SERIOUSLY

Playing now:

*Phedre* - by Jean Racine, at the Albery Theatre  
*Britannicus* - by Jean Racine, Albery

*The Weir* - by Conor McPherson, Duke of York's

*Amadeus* - by Peter Shaffer, Old Vic  
*An Inspector Calls* - by J B Priestley, Garrick

*Filumeno* - by Eduardo de Filippo, Piccadilly

Coming:  
*Kafka's Dick* - by Alan Bennett, Piccadilly  
*Macbeth* - by William Shakespeare, Queen's

pounds a year for the next three years. They have been sympathetic, but unencouraging. Their view is that there is sufficient serious theatre in London."

The plight of the Sir Peter Hall company since a falling-out between Sir Peter and his financial backer and producer Bill Kenwright, casts a shadow over the renewed interest in serious theatre in London. As things stand Sir Peter's production of Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick*, which opens next week, will be the company's last.

Sir Peter added: "*Kafka's Dick* marks the end of my association with Bill Kenwright and, at the moment, any further productions with my company in the West End."

"Sally Greene's new theatre trust that now runs The Old Vic has asked me if I could return there next year, after the run of *Amadeus*, in order to continue the work. A decision will be made about this in December, but it is not looking hopeful."

Last year, Sir Peter did a series of 13 plays at The Old Vic. He describes it as "the happiest year of my professional life". He is urging that once again a theatre so famous for a classical repertoire should be "run with a policy".

Jonathan Kent, who directed the two Racine plays, said: "I think there could be more serious theatre in London. There is a need for this sort of theatre. We're constantly being told that theatre is dying and the younger generation isn't interested. It's simply not true. These plays are playing to 97 per cent audiences."

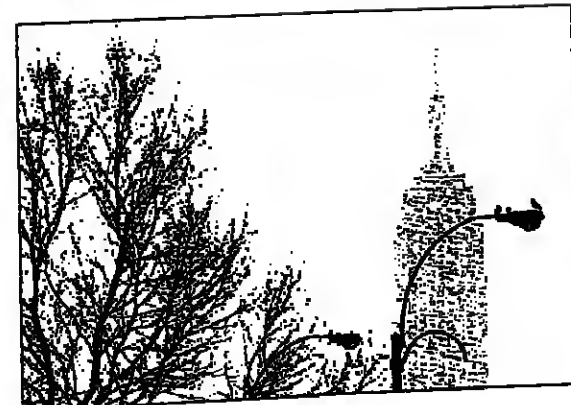
"When we suggested putting on these productions in the West End people looked polite but astounded."

"But I managed to get together the finest ensemble acting in this country at the moment and the finest verse speakers. Diana Rigg is a great leading actress, but this isn't celebrity theatre."

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# Portillo forced to pledge his loyalty

THE TORY leader, William Hague, forced Michael Portillo to make a pledge of loyalty yesterday after the former cabinet minister was accused of plotting against him.

An angry Mr Hague telephoned Mr Portillo after he demanded the Tories give a stronger lead to the campaign against British entry to the single European currency. His intervention, in an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, was seen as a criticism of Mr Hague's leadership.

After Mr Hague's rebuke, Mr Portillo issued a statement praising his "bold leadership of the Conservative Party in general and in particular on European issues".

Mr Portillo said: "I am a strong supporter of all his policies, including those on Europe... William Hague's leadership on this will bring about the revival of the party's fortunes

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

and confirm his clear prime ministerial qualities."

The loyalty oath failed to stop another outbreak of Conservative feuding over Europe. Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, renewed his allegation that there was a plot by Eurosceptics to replace Mr Hague with Mr Portillo.

"I think William should be extremely concerned about what lies behind this Portillo agenda," said Mr Heseltine.

"It's quite obvious, when Michael comes back there is going to be a concerted campaign, in which newspapers like the *Telegraph* will play a significant part, in order to replace Hague with Portillo. It's as clear as any political event in the future ever can be."

Mr Heseltine warned that

the Tories were heading off in a false direction. "The party's support is hemorrhaging from people who left the party to vote either Labour or Liberal, both of whom had a pro-European policy stance," he said.

Although Mr Hague's allies were playing down the affair last night, they were privately seething. "Portillo's criticism is bizarre," said one.

"We have given priority to the single currency issue by halting party members on it. Others have criticised us for giving it too much priority."

Mr Portillo, who lost his Enfield Southgate seat in last year's general election, wants to return to the Commons in a by-election. But yesterday's controversy shows that his attempted comeback will be fraught with difficulty and strain his relations with the Tory leader.

Mr Portillo was rebuked by

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, who insisted: "We are giving a clear lead on the single currency. What we are looking for is for others to follow that lead."

Rejecting the criticism of the Tory campaign on the euro, Mr Ancram said: "We will be looking to bring people from business in. We will try and form a broad coalition, and we will be at the forefront of the argument."

In his article, Mr Portillo said the Conservative Party was the only body with the political weight and experience to lead the many organisations opposing the single currency. "Until we provide that leadership, there is a real danger that the majority against joining EMU will be whittled away by Gordon Brown's ingenious, but corrosive, argument that British membership is inevitable."



Peter Young, a former City fund manager, leaving court yesterday after appearing on fraud charges. Nicola Kurtz

## Fraud case man appears as woman

PETER YOUNG, the former star fund manager at the centre of one of the biggest City scandals in recent years, appeared in court yesterday dressed in open-toed high-heeled sandals, flesh-coloured tights, a beige patterned jumper and flowery skirt.

Mr Young, who also wore shoulder length hair, a black shoulder bag, bright red lipstick and glasses, was represented at the hearing by his barrister, Alex Cameron. The former fund manager with the City firm Morgan Grenfell was remanded with three others to appear for a transfer hearing on 15 March.

The four were charged last month on various counts of fraud, conspiracy to defraud and offences under the Financial Services Act 1986. The charges relate to a series of irregularities in various Morgan Grenfell unit trusts, which resulted in losses of £220m two years ago.

Also at the City of London magistrates' court yesterday were Norwegians Jan Helge Johnsen and Erik Langaker, both former employees of stockbrokers Fibra Nordic. Mr Langaker resides in Portugal but is frequently in London on business. Mr Johnsen lives in London.

As a condition of bail, both were required to have sureties of £100,000.

Mr Langaker was repre-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

sented by Stephen Pollard, the solicitor who acted for Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader.

After the discovery of the alleged irregularities Mr Young left the firm, which had to be bailed out with £180m by its parent company Deutsche Bank. Deutsche was also fined for City regulatory offences as a result of the affair.

Stewart Armer, who was also employed at the time by Morgan Grenfell, did not appear in court yesterday. Mr Armer, who was represented at the hearing by his lawyer Maurice Martin, is in Chile but will appear for the hearing on 15 March. He has had to put up a £10,000 guarantee.

Mr Young, whose address was not disclosed in court, and his alleged conspirators are accused of setting up a web of Luxembourg-based companies to conceal various investments in high-risk companies from the auditors, trustees and regulators of a number of funds that Mr Young managed.

According to the charges, Mr Young and Mr Armer used the elaborate structure of Luxembourg companies to get around restrictions on the nature and size of the investments that the funds, which were aimed at ordinary retail investors, were able to hold.

## Rotherham opts in with its own single currency

BY ESTHER LEACH

"WHERE THERE'S euros, there's brass is not yet a South Yorkshire dictum but it will be one day," said Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham. His constituency yesterday provided the launchpad of the Rotherham euro - a precursor to the European currency that comes into being early next century.

The hundreds of euro bank notes given away in the town centre were, in fact, 70p shopping vouchers which couldn't buy much except time in a multi-storey car park and a discount on anything over £10 at a number of shops.

But, said Mr MacShane, it was a way of getting people talking about the euro.

The majority of European Union countries will use the euro to replace their national currencies from January 1999. It will be in use on the financial markets although coins and notes will not be issued until January 2002.

Mr MacShane's idea is backed by Rotherham's business community. As from 1 January British Steel, the town's biggest employer, starts invoicing and paying customers in Europe in euros.

In Rotherham, Gillian Riley,



The Rotherham euro

40, said: "The real euro has got to be simpler, we'll all be able to use the same currency in everything."

Training specialist Peter Walker, 48, wanted to show the Rotherham euro to colleagues in Belgium. "They will be interested to know what we are doing and really in the long run the euro will be a saving although it will cost something to make the change."

Cafe owner Michael Meares, 35, said: "I was going to offer 70p off a meal if a customer presented a Rotherham euro but decided to give free tea or coffee instead because I know it wouldn't work. It will be a while before the idea of a euro sinks in with the people of Rotherham. They don't like change and they are very careful with their money."

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11/11/98



# Dalglish heads team bidding for Celtic

BY PAUL MCCANN

KENNY DALGLISH and the rock star Jim Kerr are about to join the ranks of millionaires who have let their hearts rule their wallets after they announced an £80m bid for Glasgow Celtic yesterday.

One of Kerr's greatest regrets when his band, Simple Minds, played gigs in Glasgow, was that safety rules meant it had to play at Ibrox stadium, the home of his team's greatest rivals, Rangers.

The two want to take over from Fergus McCann, a Celtic fan ruled less by his heart than his head, who returned from Canada to bail out the team four and a half years ago. The interest of the consortium caused the team's share price to increase by a third yesterday.

Dalglish was raised a Rangers fan, but signed for Celtic as a schoolboy in 1968 and became one of its leading goalscorers, playing 324 games as well as holding the national record for Scottish caps.

His transfer to Liverpool in 1977 for a national transfer record of £400,000 broke a million Celtic hearts and his return as manager has been whispered about fondly during the years of Rangers' domination of Scottish football.

Now he is seen as the leader of a second revolution at Celtic. Despite rebuilding Celtic Park as Britain's biggest club stadium and putting an end to Rangers' nine-year grip on the Scottish Premier Division, Mr McCann, the chairman, is unpopular with the fans.

The diminutive Scotsman has a habit of interfering in the football side of the club and driving out successful players and managers. Wim Jansen, the manager who took Celtic to their first victory in the Premier League for 10 years last year, left the team at the end of the season because he did not get on with the chairman and his football adviser, Jack Brown.

Worse, Mr McCann is perceived by the fans as parsimonious when compared with the largesse Rangers has used to attract world-class players.

The combination of Dalglish and Kerr was welcomed by Celtic fans yesterday despite the fact that Dalglish began life as a Rangers fan himself and was recently linked as a consultant to a company owned by David Murray, chairman of Rangers.

Dalglish and Kerr are planning to add their own money to backing from the city to the bid and Dalglish is expected to take a role in the football side of the club. Fans have also been tempted by the consortium talking up a £10m buying fund for players if they take control.

Mr McCann, who owns 51 per cent of the stock, plans to sell his interest and return to Canada after the completion next March of a "five-year plan" to transform the club.

However, he has said he wants to sell to existing shareholders and season-ticket holders. He said yesterday that there had been an approach

from Dalglish and Kerr; but the bid seemed to undervalue the club. Nevertheless Dalglish's emotional links to the team could help swing shareholding fans behind his consortium in any future fight for the club.

Fans immediately welcomed news of the bid. Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, reckons it would be an overdue second Parkhead revolution.

He said: "My immediate reaction to this news is very, very favourable. It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club and put us back where we belong."

Fans welcome, page 30



Simple Minds singer Jim Kerr (left) and Kenny Dalglish will add their own money to the consortium bid for Celtic

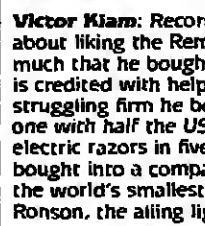
John Voos & PA

## I LIKED IT SO MUCH I BOUGHT THE COMPANY

**Peter Wheeler:** In 1981 Mr Wheeler was a chemical engineer who owned a TVR, an exclusive high-powered British sports car. That year he became the struggling company's saviour when he bought it. His instincts have been successful and the company is in profit. Sales this year will be 2,000, compared with 170 the year he took over.



**Tony & Ridley Scott:** The Gordie directors of *Thelma & Louise* and *Top Gun* spent £12m buying Shepperton studios in 1995. Before moving to Hollywood they used Shepperton hundreds of times and Ridley (pictured) made *Alien*, his first Hollywood film, there. They spent £8.5m making it the top post-production facility outside the US.



**Victor Kiam:** Recorded the line about liking the Remington shaver so much that he bought the company. It is credited with helping propel the struggling firm he bought in 1978 to one with half the US market for electric razors in five years. He has bought into a company that makes the world's smallest hair dryer and Ronson, the ailing lighter company.



**Chris Evans:** Although he had not been at Virgin Radio for long he made clear that he was bidding against Capital Radio for his employer because he loves radio and knew Capital would get rid of him. But the station has lost more than 300,000 listeners in the latest ratings and has steep repayments to make to Evans' backers.

## Stone witness is arrested

THE WITNESS in the Michael Stone murder trial who claimed he lied in court under oath has been arrested, police said yesterday.

Barry Thompson was arrested in Basildon, Essex, on Monday, two weeks after he told *The Mirror* that his testimony was "a pack of lies".

Stone, 38, of Gillingham, Kent was convicted last month of murdering Dr Lin Russell, 45, and her daughter, Megan, six. He was also convicted of the attempted murder of Josie Russell, now 11.

Mr Thompson told Maidstone Crown Court details of a conversation he had with Stone when they were both in prison. But Mr Thompson contacted the press the day after the jury found Stone guilty, saying he wanted to retract the key part of this statement.

A Kent police spokesman said yesterday Mr Thompson

BY LOUISE JURY

had been sought for questioning over the matter, but had only been found this week. Hampshire police, a force unconnected with the Russell murder investigations, have now been asked by Kent to take over an inquiry into the allegations.

Mr Thompson has been released on bail and will be questioned at a later date.

Kent police said they were also "taking seriously" allegations at the weekend that other witnesses in the trial, Lawrence Calder and Sheree Batt, had been threatened and told to withdraw their evidence.

Stone, who had protested his innocence, has lodged an appeal against his convictions. In a letter to *The Mirror* published yesterday, he asked: "What they (the police) gonna do if they ever get an idea on who did kill the Russell family?"

## IN BRIEF

### Boy in bonfire explosion dies

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy who suffered 95 per cent burns to his body in a bonfire explosion five days ago died yesterday. Allan Spiers had been in a critical condition in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow, after the accident in his home village of Law, Lanarkshire.

### Diana fund snubs mine clearance

LANDMINE CLEARANCE charities will receive no cash from the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, it was revealed yesterday. The £50m fund has confirmed that £1m set aside for the landmine cause in March this year will go towards aid for victims rather than the disposal of the weapons.

### Officers face harassment inquiry

TWO POLICEMEN have been suspended and an inquiry launched after claims that they sexually harassed female colleagues. Detective Inspector Graham Lynn and Inspector Cameron McIntosh were taken off duty by Northumbria Police after complaints.

### Clegg case soldiers 'tried to help'

SOLDIERS ON patrol with Lee Clegg on the night he is accused of murdering a Belfast joyrider yesterday described how they tried to save the teenager. They were giving evidence on the second day of Mr Clegg's retrial.

### Mobile phones need no warning

MOBILE PHONES need not carry health warnings, Abergavenny magistrates said yesterday. The decision follows a hearing in which Roger Coghill, a scientist, claimed that mobile phones pose a health hazard to their users.

### Meteor storm threatens satellites

FLIGHT CONTROLLERS are preparing to protect satellites from the Leonid meteor storm on 17 November. Thousands of particles will hurtle towards the atmosphere at 50 miles per second, threatening to sandblast spacecraft.

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# Funny handshakes and funnier wigs on the agenda

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has made plain for some time that he would dearly like to "in" himself. As the only member of the Cabinet who is actually required to drag up for a day at work, complete with tights, full-length wig and a fetching pair of Emma Hope buckle shoes, he has been feeling increasingly uncomfortable of late, a man forced to subdue his bodily urges to the stifling conventions of a more strait-laced time.

He no longer wants to live a lie. He's not an 18th-century merchant. He feels comfortable in suits. But Tory traditionalists have reacted with something close to revulsion

at his suggestion that he reveal his true nature and are absolutely adamant that parliamentary decency won't be outraged in this way. Such is their indignation that it isn't entirely inconceivable that they will insist that he also wear rouge and a large beauty spot when they vote on the matter next week. The sons-loupees are at the gate and must be dealt with firmly.

In the meantime, Lord Irvine restates his case with resigned modesty. Yes, he confirmed yesterday to the Home Affairs Committee, he did feel that "for male adults of sound mind... the days of breeches and tights and buckled shoes have

passed". He had no objection to full costume on some occasions. When ceremony demanded it, he was prepared to perch on the woolsack in "full kit", like a mischievous boy consigned to the naughty cushion. In such circumstances he would buckle down, buckle up, huckle to and buckle under.

But for routine business he would much prefer to get his kit off, and the very first thing to go would be the wig. This is understandable. Barristers' wigs, of which the Lord Chancellor also disapproves, are hardly very onerous accessories. They perch on top of the head, a small mammal seeking refuge from

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

a flood. The Lord Chancellor's wig is a more ponderous matter altogether - in its combination of wrap-around clutch and fleecy dangle it

brings to mind a sheep clinging to a bollard. This is not very comfortable for the bollard. "The wig weighs an absolute ton, I can tell you," said Lord Irvine plaintively as he made his case to a wig loyalist.

It wasn't the only question of costume that came up. The fondness of some judges for rolling up their trouser legs and donning embroidered aprons was raised by Gerald Howarth, who asked the Lord Chancellor to comment on the Government's register of judicial Freemasons.

Rather as *The Sun* opened a "tell us if you're gay" hotline for cabinet ministers this week, the Govern-

ment has recently instituted a "come out of the lodge" line for magistrates and High Court judges. Yesterday, Lord Irvine told us how many magistrates had availed themselves of this service, revealing that 6.8 per cent had confirmed that they indulged in mumbo-jumbo, though they did it in private and only with other consenting adults, while 5.4 per cent had refused to answer the question.

There was an almost audible buzz as journalists set about working out what percentage of Britain's magistrates could legitimately be identified as members of the funny handshake brigade. Start with 6.8,

double it to account for the fact that women can't become Masons, add the year of your birth, take away as little as possible to account for conscientious objection, and end up with a number that you think you might get away with.

Mr Howarth shook his head disapprovingly at such flagrant outing and made one last sartorial suggestion. As shop steward for the nation's judges, wouldn't the Lord Chancellor defend them against this gross invasion of privacy? Lord Irvine, a man who likes to feel the wind in his hair, knew better than to swap his horsehair for a flat cap, and declined the offered post.

## Minister warns of serious downturn

PETER MANDELSON gave a gloomy prediction of a "serious downturn" of the economy yesterday, warning that there would be "inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years". The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry said the question was "how much Britain will suffer as a consequence" and how "we can withstand the consequences".

Speaking during an Opposition debate on the decline of manufacturing industry, Mr Mandelson said he wanted to make Britain a knowledge-driven society to increase levels of productivity at a time when confidence was "fragile" in British business.

"We will only succeed if we create open, competitive markets; if we create and exploit knowledge, including our science base; if we can upgrade skills and spread knowledge of best practice in business," he said. But he went on to accuse

### ECONOMY By Sarah Schaefer Political Reporter

the Tories of "absolutely crying out" for recession because it was "their only route to political salvation".

Addressing current problems in the global economy, Mr Mandelson added: "No one disputes that this is a serious economic downturn."

"There will be inevitable job losses as a result in the coming years. The question is how much Britain will suffer as a consequence and how we can withstand the consequences."

He insisted that almost all forecasts supported the figures of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, of modest growth next year. "Amidst all the present pressures, it is vital to realise that we can talk ourselves into a greater showdown than is necessary," Mr Mandelson added.



Workers leaving the Rover plant at Longbridge in Birmingham on the day the firm announced 1,500 job losses earlier this year Ben Head

Earlier in the debate, John Redwood, the Tories' trade and industry spokesman, branded Mr Mandelson the "minister for manufacturing recession" and the "minister for factory closures".

He accused him of "turning a blind eye" to the problems facing British business and understanding nothing about them because he had "never worked in business" himself.

The Government, he added, had made it "too dear to make things in Britain" by raising business taxes and increasing the regulatory burden.

Mr Redwood said: "The productivity problem is not of industry's making, it is of the Government's making."

"They are the ones that are bleeding industry dry by taking the money out of industry's tills and coffers and putting it

into the Treasury or administration."

Since coming into power last year, the Government had transformed the UK from being the number one place for new investment for multi-national companies to being the number one place for closure.

"Now there are some problems in the world economy. Where do they turn to dismiss their staff and close their fac-

tories first? They turn to the UK because they know it is in the UK where the [business] climate has deteriorated most dramatically."

Mr Mandelson, he said, had likened himself to John the Baptist. "John the Baptist was closer to being an atheist than you are to understanding British manufacturers. You haven't invited business to a baptism but a funeral," Mr

Redwood said. David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrats' trade and industry spokesman, attacked Mr Mandelson and Mr Brown for complacency towards the crisis facing Britain's manufacturing industry.

"The Chancellor is just about the only forecaster who thinks the manufacturing industry can avoid a recession next year," he added.

CB1 warning, page 18

## Straw vilifies Tory peers

EUROPE  
By Sarah Schaefer

JACK STRAW accused Tory hereditary peers of opposing the "elected will" of the Commons over choosing a voting method for next year's European elections yesterday as he offered to review the disputed system after one year.

In an effort to avoid a constitutional clash between the Commons and the Lords, the Home Secretary introduced an amendment to persuade peers to accept the "closed list" system of proportional representation under which voters hack parties rather than candidates in next June's poll.

Ahead of a Commons debate which is set to reverse last week's government defeat by peers, Mr Straw said: "What we are now facing is a determination by unelected Conservative hereditary peers to override the elected will of the House of Commons."

"This issue has gone way beyond arguments about closed or semi-open lists for European Parliamentary elections."

"It is now an issue of Commons, in the elected House of Commons, versus the packed hereditary House of Lords," he told BBC Radio.

## Tax credit for low-paid will help families on £38,000

FAMILIES EARNING up to £38,000 a year will benefit from a flagship government policy aimed at helping the low paid, it was revealed yesterday.

The Tories warned that the £5bn-a-year working families tax credit, which will replace the £3.5bn family credit scheme next October, would give money to people who did not really need it.

Iain Duncan Smith, the opposition spokesman on social security, accused the Government of "scattering money" at higher-rate taxpayers and bringing them into the dependency of the welfare system. The Tories published figures showing that a family with five

TAX  
By Andrew Grice  
Political Editor

children aged under 11 could still receive the new tax credit with an annual income of £38,000. A family with four children and earning £35,000 would receive £5.69 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said that the new system would undermine Labour's much-heralded commitment to the family, because it was biased towards lone parents and penalised married couples with only one wage-earner.

A couple with one earner on £15,000 a year would receive only 25p a week, while a single

mother on the same income and with weekly child care costs of £100 would get £70.25 a week.

Mr Duncan Smith said the Tories would oppose the scheme and called for the family credit system to be retained. But he stopped short of promising that they would abolish it if they returned to power.

Further criticism of the working families tax credit came from the Independent Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). Far from encouraging people to take jobs, the IFS said it could deter a husband or wife from returning to work because they could lose 70p in every extra £1 they earn.

The new credit scheme is the idea of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, whose officials insisted that people on high incomes would receive only very small amounts.

Dawn Primarolo, a Treasury minister, said that 1.5 million hard-working families would be better off under the new scheme and they would be supported by the Tories' failure to support it. "The Government believes it is right to take action to ensure that work pays more than benefit and right also to provide for the first time proper help with childcare costs so that parents can balance work and family responsibilities," she said.

## FO 'was urged to recall envoy'

FOREIGN OFFICE staff had a "heated discussion" with Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone after he advised the country's exiled president to recruit British mercenaries to help to reinstate him, MPs heard yesterday.

One official told the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that he had recommended the recall of Peter Penfold after being told he had a "tendency to freelance".

Craig Murray, who was

SIERRA LEONE  
By Fran Abrams  
Westminster Correspondent

deputy head of the Foreign Office's equatorial Africa department, said he was warned off by a more senior official when he raised the issue of Britain's policy on the country.

Ministers said they were committed to restoring the government, deposed in a coup last year, by peaceful means but officials, including both Mr Mur-

ray and Mr Penfold, liaised with representatives of Sandline International who were aiding plans for an invasion.

Sandline escaped prosecution for breaching a United Nations arms embargo because it argued the Foreign Office knew what it was doing. Mr Murray said yesterday he had been "set up" by Sandline's chief executive, Tim Spicer.

Mr Murray said when he asked the Foreign Office Africa director, Richard Dales,

whether there was dichotomy between government policy and the actions of Mr Penfold and Britain's special envoy, John Flynn, he was told: "There is no dichotomy in our policy. Our problem is getting Messrs Penfold and Flynn to pursue it."

Mr Murray said Mr Dales had admitted that Mr Penfold had a "tendency to freelance".

Mr Murray said that Mr Dales told him: "He had rather gotten into that mode of oper-

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Defence head

The Prime Minister has appointed the businessman Tony Edwards as the Head of Defence Export Services, Defence Secretary George Robertson announced.

#### High fuel costs

With a rate of duty on a litre of unleaded petrol of 43.99p, UK motorists pay the highest rates of excise duty on petrol and diesel of any of the EU countries, said the Treasury Economic Secretary, Patricia Hewitt.

#### Coaches 'unsafe'

More than 5 per cent of coaches stopped at random by police were deemed unroadworthy, Junior Home Office minister Paul Boateng said in a written reply.

#### Waiting lists

Heath Secretary Frank Dobson acknowledged there had been a rise in the number of people waiting for doctors' appointments. But the Tories were "moving the stadium" in the way they calculated NHS waiting lists.

### Meale in clear over lobbying

ALAN MEALE, one of John Prescott's ministers, was last night cleared of breaking Commons rules over lobbying for planning permission for a football club development. Sir Gordon Downey, standards commissioner, said he had investigated the complaint by Liberal Democrat Paul Tyler but found Mr Meale had not breached MPs' rules.

Today's Business:  
Commons: 2.30pm - International Development

### THE HOUSE



questions: Prime Minister's questions; Scotland Bill; Lords amendments; Short debate on child protection. Lords: 2.30pm - Regional Development Agencies Bill; Northern Ireland Bill; report; Debate on measures to improve links with Iran.

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# Parents asked to sign pledge on homework

Theresa May, the shadow schools minister, said: "In their obsession with imposing rules,

Leading article,  
Review page 3

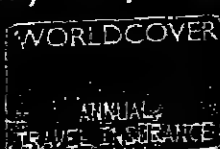


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## Duke's Dublin visit paves way for the Queen

THE Duke of Edinburgh's successful visit to Dublin yesterday looks likely to clear the way for the Queen to make the first trip to Ireland by a reigning British monarch since King George V and Queen Mary's tour in 1911.

He is not the only one to feel that the visit is a good thing.

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THE DUKE of Edinburgh's successful visit to Dublin yesterday looks likely to clear the way for the Queen to make the first trip to Ireland by a reigning British monarch since King George V and Queen Mary's tour in 1911.

Irish sources confirmed a trip by the Queen is now increasingly likely after a series of trial visits by junior royals, but declined to predict the date.

Such a tour could help to reinforce the political settlement achieved through the Good Friday Agreement, and foster greater reconciliation with the Unionist community.

The memory of the 1979 murder by the IRA of Lord Mountbatten near his holiday home in County Sligo means any visit will not be authorised until the strength of paramilitary ceasefires has been proven and all security concerns have been resolved.

The question may be discussed today when the Queen and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, together attend the unveiling of a memorial in Belgium to First World War dead from both sides of the Irish border.

The possibility of the monarch going to Ireland was raised informally in recent visits by the former Irish President, Mary Robinson, in 1993 and 1996, but no date was set.

Yesterday's trip was kept brief. Prince Philip was gone by

BY ALAN MURDOCH  
in Dublin

lunchtime, making it one of the shortest royal visits to another country.

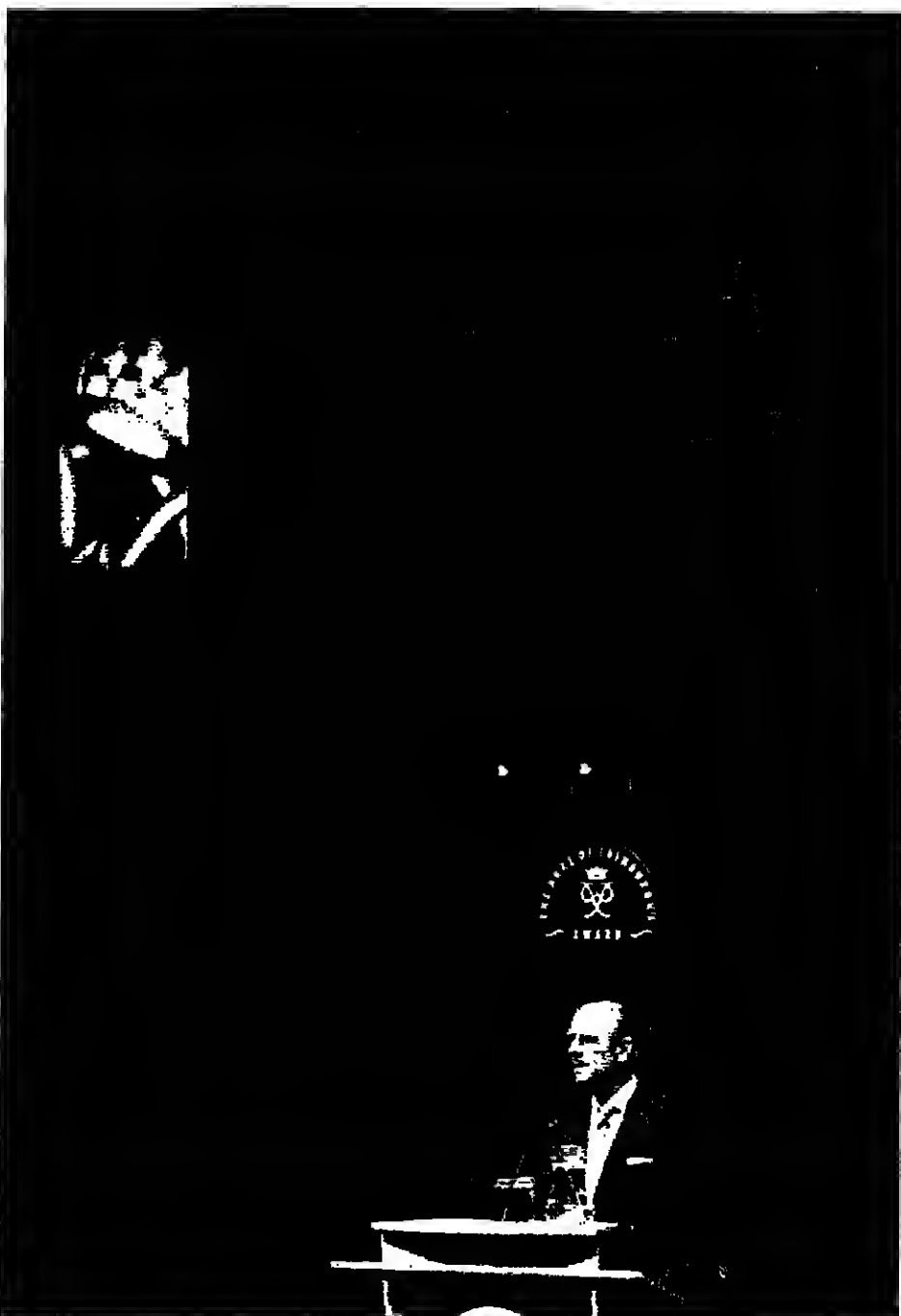
In Dublin Castle, the seat of British rule until 1922, he officiated with President McAleese at the announcement of a joint awards scheme.

They confirmed that Ireland will host the Millennium Gold Encounter, an event organised jointly by Gaisce, the President's Award, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Northern Ireland, in the autumn of next year. Young people from all around the world will attend.

The Duke passed rooms in the castle where republican prisoners had been held before their execution in 1916 at nearby Kilmainham Jail.

President McAleese skated gracefully over the fact that her compatriots had been tortured to death in the basement by Crown forces, mentioning only the fact that the castle "was the main administrative centre" during British rule.

In his brief address, Prince Philip said "it would be ridiculous to pretend that there had not been problems between North and South" but added of the joint awards scheme that "any initiative which can somehow overcome these rather artificial divisions can only be good".



The Duke of Edinburgh at a meeting on the Award Scheme in Belfast yesterday PA

## Peers support cannabis use

THE LIKELIHOOD of cannabis being legalised for medical use increased yesterday after a powerful Lords committee said it would be "unjustified" and "inhumane" to delay clinical trials of the drug further.

Peers recommended an urgent change in the law to allow derivatives of the drug to be used for the treatment of multiple sclerosis and chronic pain. The 53-page report from the Lords' Science and Technology Committee concluded an eight-month inquiry. It will put pressure on the Government to relax the blanket ban on cannabis, which has lasted for the past 25 years.

The Department of Health has always insisted evidence of the medical benefits of cannabis was too weak to justify a relaxation of the law.

But the committee said that it has been persuaded that cannabis should be moved from its listing as a

BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

Schedule 1 drug, where it cannot be used except in research, to Schedule 2, allowing doctors and pharmacists to supply it on prescription.

Lord Perry of Walton, the committee's chairman, said clinical trials of cannabis should be mounted "as a matter of urgency for compassionate reasons" as thousands of patients could be helped. "It would be unjustified and inhumane to make them wait much longer," he said.

The committee was less convinced about the drug's effectiveness in tackling other conditions, including epilepsy, glaucoma and asthma, but Lord Perry made clear it would be at doctors' discretion when to prescribe the drug.

He denied the legalisation of cannabis for medical use would be the first step to-

wards the decriminalisation of the drug for recreational use, saying they were "completely separate matters".

Lord Perry, who is 77, said: "Before any of you ask us if we have ever smoked pot, the answer is that we're not going to tell you. It's not relevant to the inquiry. But cannabis can be used to reduce the amount of morphine or heroin that is used for terminal conditions like cancer."

■ Pulp Fiction glamorised drug-taking so much it may have increased heroin abuse, the outgoing British Board of Film Classification director, James Ferman, said yesterday.

Some scenes in Quentin Tarantino's cult film were "practically an advertisement" for heroin, Mr Ferman told the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence. "We didn't cut the film, and I don't know looking back, whether that was a good idea," he said.

## Perils of a liberal parent in the great dope debate

ANY MINUTE now, someone is going to telephone and ask me to comment on today's House of Lords report on smoking dope. I hope it's that nice girl from Sky Television.

Last time I appeared on Sky News, they paid me a hundred quid. Not bad for an interview consisting of two questions lasting approximately 97 seconds.

Q: Cannabis is an illegal substance. Knowing that you're breaking the law, why do you smoke it?

A: Because it improves my eyesight.

Q: Are you in favour of decriminalising cannabis for medical purposes?

A: Sure.

Of course, there's a bit more to it than that and, depending on how much time they give me, I rabbit on about this tiresome hereditary complaint I have known as retinitis pigmentosa, which makes everything I see, especially faces and print, as blurred as if I were attempting to focus through a jam-jar dardly.

Late-night chat shows are more generous. Radio 5 offered £150 but that was for the midnight to 2am slot including listeners' phone-ins. Late-night listeners are a peculiar breed, let's face it. If they were normal they'd be asleep. Nutters calling from lonely Welsh phone boxes I can cope



BY SUE ARNOLD

with, it's the know-alls up to their armpits in statistics that throw me.

"I take it Ms Arnold is familiar with the second draft amendment to the recent government White Paper on recreational drugs which states categorically..."

No, Alistair from Tring, I am familiar neither with the amendment nor the White Paper and even if I were I doubt it would help me make up my mind about the second and far more controversial part of The Great Cannabis Debate upon which their Lordships will inevitably be asked to debate sooner, rather than later, namely should we go the whole hog and decriminalise cannabis altogether?

Now this is serious stuff. Legalising pot for medical rea-

sons hardly needed debating. It so obviously needed to be done, and to give Sky News credit, 97 seconds is about as long as it takes to say so. Do I think cannabis should be legalised? If you'd asked me before this year's A-level results came out I'd have said yes.

Well, of course, why not? I'm liberal. I'm broad-minded. I'm tolerant. I'm modern. With the rest of you. I listened to Rosie Boycott's pro-pot arguments and added my name to the list of signatories.

We were in Scotland when the 17-year-old called with his A-level results and I go ballistic. I call his teacher, what happened? "With the best will in the world you can't teach kids about the finer points of Shakespearean imagery when they're stoned," said Miss Bentley.

By all means let us legalise cannabis for recreational purposes but let us add a proviso as we do with alcohol and make it available only to adults.

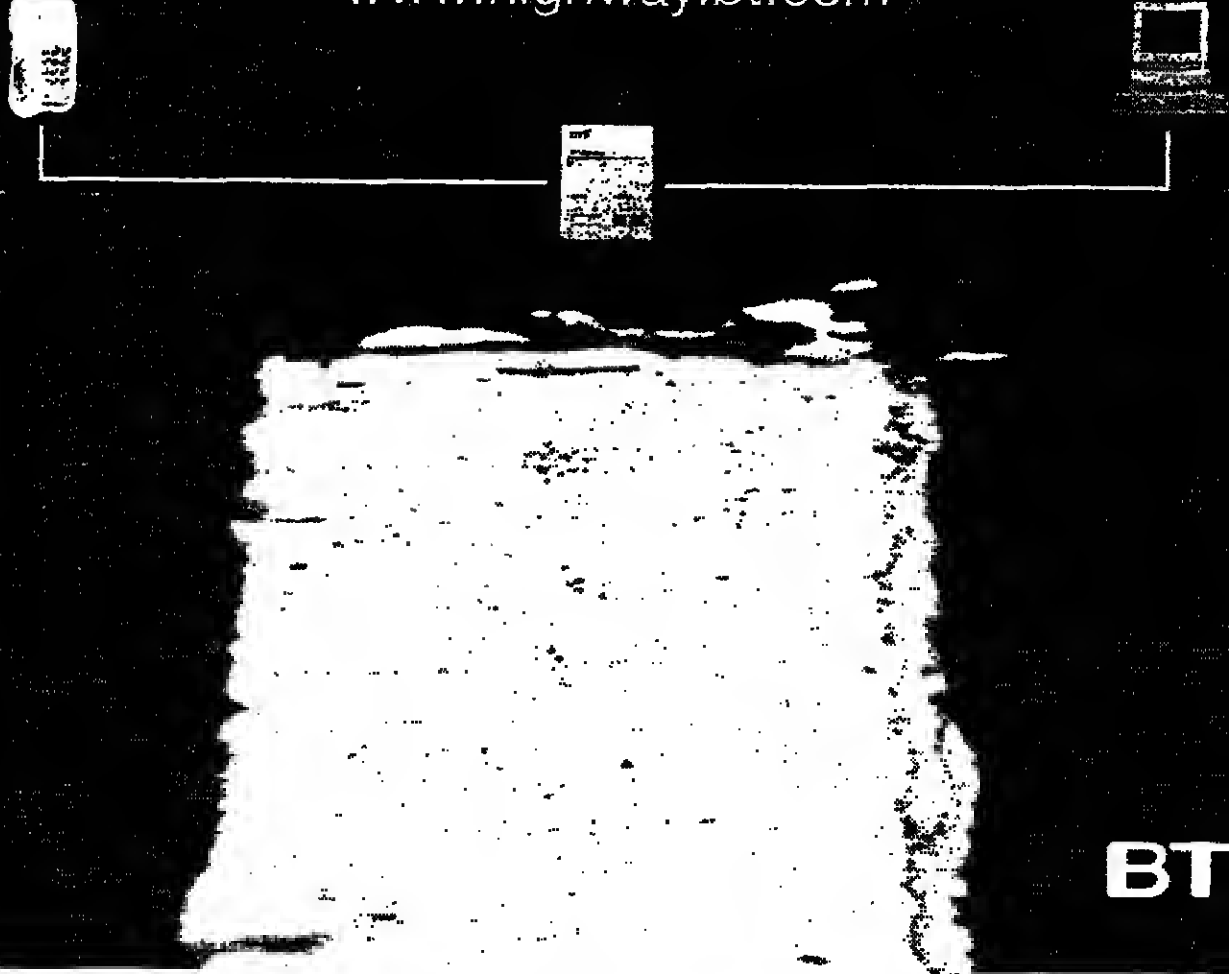
Call it a cop-out, but it is far easier for the beleaguered modern parents undermined by peer group pressure to be able to fall back on the law when striving to maintain parental discipline. I did it the modern, broad-minded liberal way. "Honestly darling, you'd really be able to concentrate harder if you didn't smoke that stuff."

"But you did, Mum!"

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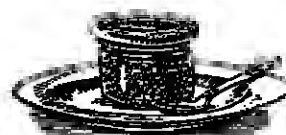
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## GP case: seventh body is exhumed

BY GARY FINN

**THE BODY** of a 67-year-old woman was exhumed from a Manchester cemetery yesterday by detectives investigating Dr Harold Shipman, the GP charged with murdering four of his patients.

Irene Turner's body was removed from her grave in Hyde Cemetery in the early hours of the morning. She is the seventh of Dr Shipman's former patients to be exhumed as part of the suspicious deaths inquiry, which now includes 116 cases, the largest investigation of its kind in British history.

Hours later the 52-year-old doctor, who ran a sole practice in Hyde, was committed for trial by magistrates in Ashtoo-under-Lyne charged with murdering a former mayoress of the town, 81-year-old Kathleen Grundy. He is also charged with forging and using a false will, making him the sole beneficiary of her £300,000 estate.

**A GENETICALLY** engineered potato could soon replace painful immunisation injections against hepatitis B, cholera and travellers' diarrhoea, or "Delhi belly".

In a move into a market potentially worth hundreds of millions of pounds a year, Axis Genetics of Cambridge has commissioned the American company Ag-Tec International to grow potatoes containing extra genes that make a vaccine against the hepatitis B virus.

The potatoes will be used in clinical trials in the US to test how well their vaccine works in humans. But because the experimental plants have not yet been approved for public use, the scientists who developed them are not allowed to eat them - unless they are participating as subjects in the trial.

Future products could exploit tomatoes, carrots, corn or lettuce, said Paul Rodgers, the commercial director of Axis Genetics. "Fundamentally,

Genetics. "Fundamentally, there are no barriers to genetic modification of any plant species," he said yesterday. "But potatoes are particularly easy because they propagate a clones, so you can cultivate from an initial one without sexual crossing, which can lose the desired genes."

**BY CHARLES ARTHUR**  
Technology Editor

Ag-Tec brings expertise in the mass production and processing of potatoes, he said. Trials in Britain and Europe will follow in a couple of years.

The development of vaccine-making potatoes marks a new generation of transgenic foods and plants. The first, such as Calgene's "Flavr Savr" tomato, were engineered to keep fresh longer by deleting a gene that caused decay. The second generation, typified by Monsanto's transgenic soya, which is resistant to weedkiller, also offered benefits to food producers, but none directly to the person eating them.

However, "pre-vaccinated" potatoes are developed specifically for their effect on the per-

itally for their effect on the person who eats them. The extragenes mean the vaccine is produced within the potato as it grows. Eating the raw or cooked product encourages the body to build up defences against the virus, which causes liver disease and cancer.

Trials in the US last year showed the same technique is effective with modified potatoes which prompt immunity to the virus that causes travellers' diarrhoea. In addition, it bol-

sters defences in the gut, where the virus is most likely to attack. Injections tend to boost the body's blood-borne defences.

Eventually, though, the edible vaccine would probably take the form of a tablet containing potato extract, rather than a supermarket display of "superpotatoes." "It means you can regulate the dose precisely," said Mr. Rodgers, "and there's no problem about it going past a sell-by date."

The commercial prospects for edible vaccines are highly promising. Hepatitis B vaccinations are already a \$1bn (£606m) annual market, although only a minority of those at risk are vaccinated, he said.

**Police exhume the body of Irene Turner near Manchester. She was 67 when she died in 1996**

**Don Chung**

## THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

*"The Independent" is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.*



## Article 6

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Race relations: Study examines police strategies while armed forces seek ways to eliminate discrimination in the ranks

# Police 'out of touch with racial groups'

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PETER A gloomy p downwur terday, would be as a resul The S Find police arrogant and with little interest in details of crime situations. Police hamfisted in trying to win their co-operation. Britain's quence". Trust and respect the police, support Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV. Some older adults find police have little interest in them. Retired people aged over 60 Sympathetic and supportive, but criticise some young officers as arrogant and chief constables for closing stations. Believe officers 'are not as good as The Bill'. ETHNIC SOCIAL GROUPS Pakistani young men Find police ignorant of cultural and religious differences. Believe police target them as different, based on outdated stereotypes. Older Indian women See police as distant, 'based in cars, out of touch', unconcerned and unsympathetic. Police 'should treat us with respect'. Afro Caribbean women aged 14 to 45 Have very negative view of police - 'they can't be relied on', they target younger blacks, and the force is 'rife with racism'. Complaints procedure cannot be relied upon. Afro Caribbean older men Find police 'not streetwise' or involved. Disappointed with tendency to merely wait and react. Things now worse than in the past.

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

representing different ages, sexes, economic backgrounds and ethnicity.

The groups had varying policing priorities. The young, ethnic minorities and working-class groups were particularly concerned with issues such as drugs and street crime, while older people worried about burglary and violent crime.

The authors of the report, *Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing*, which was carried out by the Home Office's policing and reducing crime unit, suggest that the police tailor strategies and styles to deal with different groups. They recommended introducing a "customer segmentation" approach, similar to the system used by marketing companies. The most worrying finding of the study was the wide range

of people who held negative images of the police. In line with many of the submissions made to the inquiry into the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence, these often involved ethnic minority groups.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Negative perceptions of the police service, particularly amongst young people and ethnic minorities, are a cause for concern. Too often the police are seen as distant, out of touch and unsympathetic to the needs of these groups."

"This presents us all with a challenge - effective policing requires strong working relations with all sections of society regardless of age or race."

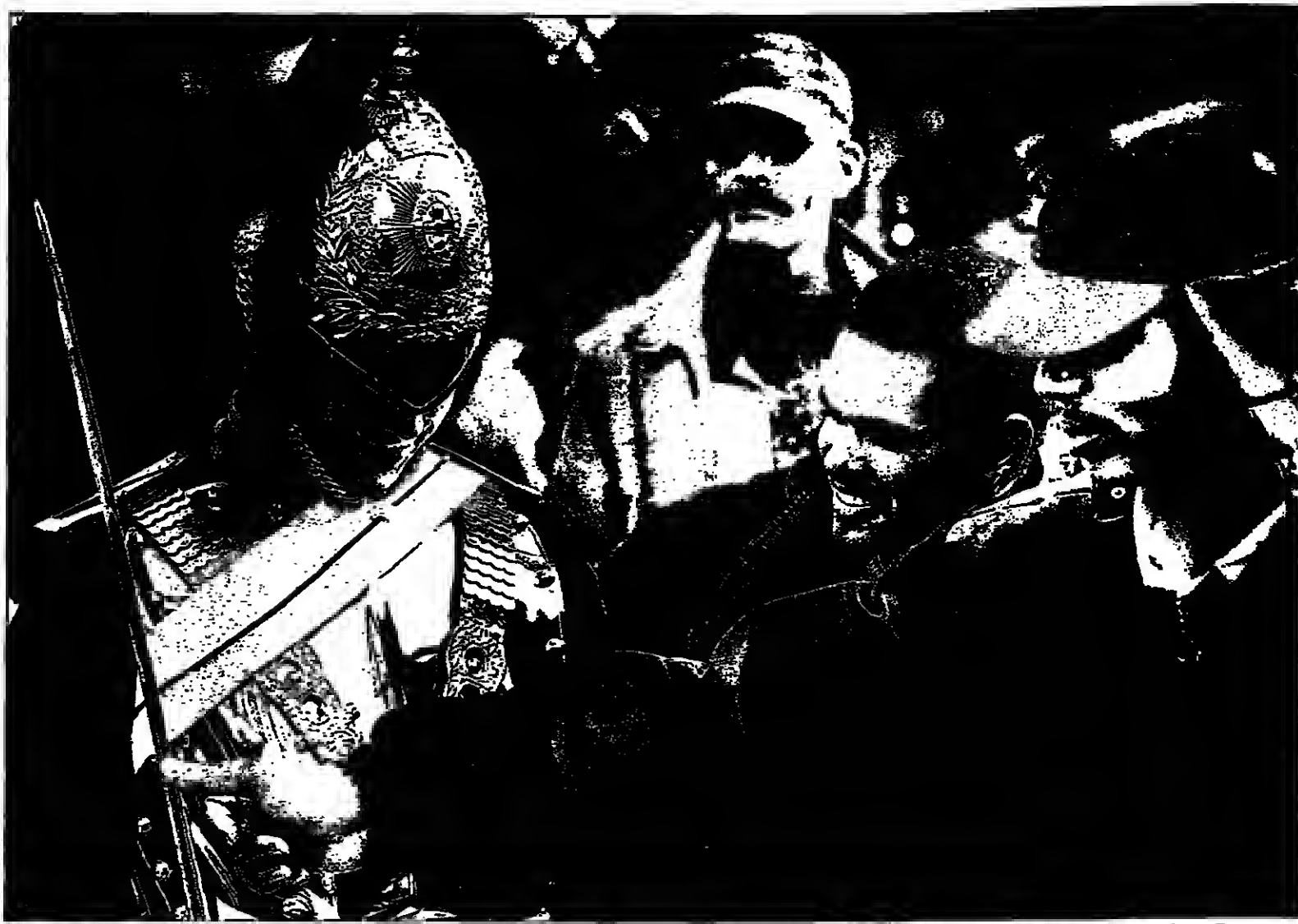
The study identified three distinct approaches to policing that are supported by different social groups. Young people and working-class adults want more proactive and focused policing, such as anti-rugging strategies. They were in favour of undercover and covert action by the police.

The use of visible patrolling as a means of reassurance was attractive for middle-aged middle-class adults, older men and ethnic minority groups, although they were easily persuaded that proactive policing was more effective.

Older women and retired people believe visible "beat bobbies" were not just a means of reassurance, but also reduced crime and made them feel better protected.

The researchers concluded that the police "should regard the public not as a single entity, but as a number of separate and distinct communities. This would involve a form of 'segmented' policing, different styles, but not different standards, of policing."

Public Expectations and Perceptions of Policing is available by faxing 0171 273 4001.



Soldiers from the Household Cavalry talking to shoppers during their recruitment drive in Brixton, south London, yesterday. Andrew Buurman

## How we stamped out prejudice in our forces - by Colin Powell

BY CLARE GARNER

GENERAL Colin Powell, the distinguished Gulf War military chief, told leaders of the British Armed Forces yesterday that they must be "vicious" in eradicating racism within their ranks.

The black former United States Chief of Defense Staff told a conference in London that winning the "war on racism" would depend on good leadership. "Our experience is that this is leaders' business," he said. "It is not policies or programmes which will get you to your goal, it will be the commanders and leaders who take this on as a central mission."

Speaking to 100 delegates, in-

cluding George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Charles Guthrie, he referred to initiatives used in America, including training sessions, zero tolerance campaigns and monitoring of the performances of senior officers in matters of race.

"In America, any overt expression of racism was absolutely crushed," he said.

General Powell's message was delivered on the day that the Household Cavalry stepped up its campaign to recruit more people from ethnic minorities by taking troops on to the streets of south London.

At midday, eight gleaming black horses with polished hoods were unloaded from a box outside the Ritzy cinema in Brixton, and mounted by soldiers in full uniform.

Unlike their usual style on duty in Whitehall, the soldiers were encouraged to speak to passers-by. The whole point of the exercise, after all, was to convince members of ethnic minorities that they would be wel-



George Robertson and General Colin Powell PA

come in the Armed Forces.

"The idea is to show people that we are the same as anyone else: we're just doing a job and we're not totally detached from what's going on," said Captain Rick Manning. "We've come down here to show people we're a caring, sharing Army."

Few people bothered to stop and admire the horses, as the Household Cavalry had hoped. "The Household Guards, what

they doing round here?" said one man, pausing on the steps of the public library. On learning the purpose of the parade, he shrugged: "All the black people will be able to do if they join is clear up the horse shit."

Semai Francis, a writer in his early forties, propped himself up against the wall. "The Horse Guards trying to recruit down here is a waste of time."

"This is all very mamby-

pamby, airy fairy to the average person who hasn't got a job. It conjures up colonial days to me: the British empire, fascism, right-wingism. It's not progress. It's more retro-Britain."

Six-year-old Oliver James tried on a soldier's helmet. His father, Neville, 41, was reluctant to pay any attention to troops, but had been persuaded by his son. "Would you like to ride horses or drive tanks?" asked Mr James, entering into the spirit of the occasion. But deep down, he felt uneasy. "I would not encourage any of my kids to join the Army until the infrastructure had changed," he said.

Trooper Crowther, 19, was encouraged by their reception. "I'd say it's quite a breakthrough, really," he said. "It's something that's been a long time coming. They've been planning it, but they weren't sure about the public reaction."

However, it was going to take more than one parade in Brixton to convince Mr James. "There's a cynical side to me which says, 'Do they really mean this or is it just a publicity stunt?'"

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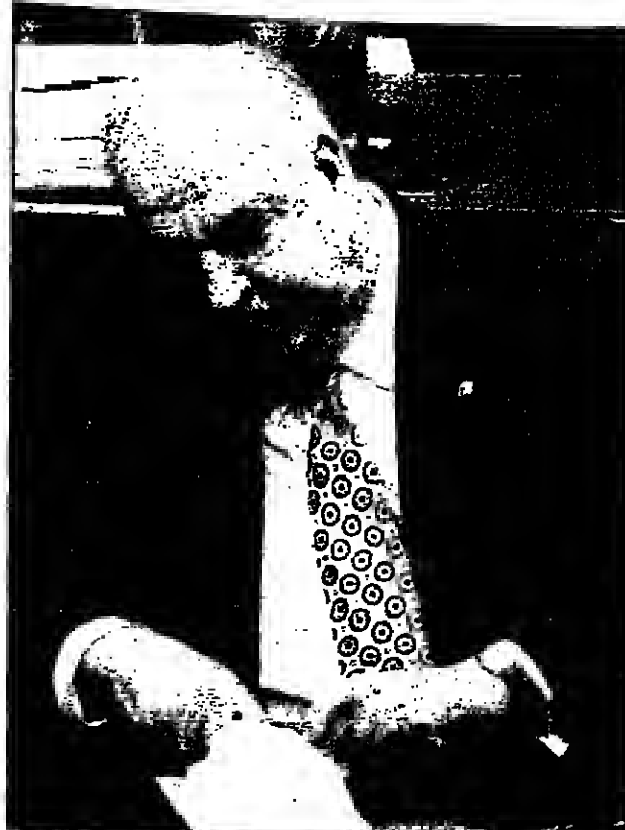
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Time appears to weigh heavily for former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the Bundestag yesterday. Mr Kohl was pictured as his successor, Gerhard Schröder, made his inaugural address to parliament. Thomas Kohler EPA

## Schröder outlines his 'New Centre'

CHANCELLOR GERHARD Schröder ushered in his "Republic of the New Centre" yesterday, pledging to modernise German society and cut unemployment in the coming four years of his reign.

But his "government declaration" itemising the programme of the Social Democrat-Green coalition, was immediately attacked by the opposition as lacking substance, and drew broad criticism for its

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

paucity of vision. "We have said that we do not want to do everything differently, but many things better," Mr Schröder reminded parliament. Proving to be a man of his word, the Chancellor spoke for two hours about the minor improvements he had in mind.

He evoked the New Centre, a Schröderite variation on the

Third Way theme, promising to liberate Germans' entrepreneurial spirit, thus creating the conditions for an economic renaissance. Taxpayers would be receiving DM15bn (£5.3bn) back from the state by 2002, DM5bn more than originally envisaged.

Nevertheless, business continues to be unimpressed by the pro-business gestures of the new government. A new ecology tax has been roundly con-

demned by industry, and economists are unconvinced by promises of a cut in long-term unemployment.

The new administration hopes to rekindle the "alliance for jobs" plan first proposed by a trade union leader two years ago. The idea is for employers and employees to thrash out a deal, bringing down labour costs while arresting the trend of mass lay-offs.

The initiative will be

launched before the end of the year.

The opposition had heard it all before, and wanted more specifics. "Showtime is over," shouted Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrats' new leader, succeeding Helmut Kohl. "What's needed now is substance."

But Mr Schröder has always been stronger on style, and refused to heed his opponent's advice. So he dwelt on the future

instead, the new beginning represented by the move to Berlin. The New Centre, he assured Germans, would be perfectly at home in the former capital of the Reich.

"To some people, Berlin still sounds too Prussian, too authoritarian, too centralised," Mr Schröder said. "Our totally non-aggressive vision of a Republic of the New Centre stands as the exact opposite of this."

"Berlin symbolises the Republic of the New Centre as it lies at the heart of Germany and at the heart of Europe. Berlin also stands for... an atmosphere of openness, which has made the city an attraction for youth and the cultural avant-garde from all of Europe."

The city is to receive extra funds for its cultural institutions, he promised, though there is no talk just yet of building a mil-

lennium dome in the new epicentre of Cool Germany.

Betraying his priorities, Mr Schröder devoted little time to his country's relationship with the outside world. He paid lip-service to the independence of the European Central Bank. In foreign affairs, he praised the importance of the transatlantic link and grumbled about Germany's contributions to the European Union budget, but gave few details.

## Nato eye in the sky keeps Kosovo safe

UNITED STATES Air Force officers are flying unmanned Predator spy planes from a former Warsaw Pact airbase in Hungary to feed a stream of live video military intelligence to the Pentagon from the battlefields of Kosovo.

Although satellites and manned spy planes also feed intelligence back to Washington and Nato command, the Predators, based at Tazsar, are the sole source of real-time video for Nato's Operation Eagle Eye.

"We're the only ones that can get full motion video - that's our key," said Sergeant Leo Glovka. "From five to ten miles away I can see people and what they are doing."

From an altitude of between 15,000 and 20,000 feet the camera in the 27ft-long aircraft zoomed in on a Hungarian village to show a male pedestri-

BY ADAM LEBOR  
in Tazsar, Hungary

an wearing a beige coat and carrying a white plastic bag.

The \$3.4m (£2.1m) spy-planes are Nato's answer to threats by Serb nationalist leaders to down Western airplanes flying over Kosovo. They are a mainstay of Operation Eagle Eye, which monitors Serb compliance with the UN resolutions that demand a military pull-back from Kosovo.

Each Predator has a two-man team - the pilot and the sensor operator, who controls the cameras and the flow of information. The pilot uses computer controls to adjust the aircraft's speed, altitude and direction as it penetrates deep into hostile territory. The information is bounced by satellite to Molesworth airbase in

Britain, and sent on to the Pentagon.

The Predators cannot defend themselves if they come under fire, relying on the skill of the pilot back at base. But the next generation of unmanned planes is likely to have weapons attached.

Operation Eagle Eye and the possibility of Nato intervention in neighbouring Serbia have highlighted the complications of expanding the alliance into post-communist eastern Europe.

C-130 transporter planes take off from Tazsar on logistics and supply missions to the S-FOR peace-keeping troops in Bosnia, and if Nato ever launched large-scale intervention in Kosovo, Tazsar would be a vital staging post for the alliance. With the Czech Republic and Poland, Hungary is set to join Nato next April.

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A man inspects a model of 'Homo erectus pekinensis', or Peking Man, on display south of the Chinese capital. Peking Man, which was discovered in China, is believed to have lived 300,000 years ago. *Natalie Behring*

# Russia 'suffering a silent disaster'

BY PHIL REEVES  
AND HELEN WOMACK  
in Moscow

FIVE SHIPS taking supplies to beleaguered Russians in the Far East have been abandoned after getting stuck in ice amid an increasingly frantic battle to avert a disastrous winter in Russia's remote reaches.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from communities in the frozen east and north because of a lack of fuel and food, while others have voluntarily fled hundreds of miles to the nearest towns as Arctic weather closes in.

The stranded ships – one carrying 100 tons of much-needed diesel fuel – are just one setback in a crisis caused by Russia's economic meltdown but compounded by a bad harvest, floods, drought, falling imports and fracturing supply lines.

Despite assurances from the Russian government that the situation is under control, this is far from the only warning voice. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday unveiled a report saying that – although national shortages of basic foodstuffs were not expected – some Russians could face hardship in the coming months caused by a sharp decline in the output of wheat, barley, potatoes and other crops. "The most vulnerable socio-economic groups – pensioners, orphans, the unemployed and households de-



pendent on public salaries, can expect a rough winter," it said. The Russian authorities want impoverished northern regions to be the main focus of two aid deals with the West, not least because climatic conditions prevent the population from growing their own food.

Moscow signed a \$625m (£386m) agreement last week with the United States for 3.1 million tons of food. Yesterday, a tentative deal was reached with the European Union in which Russia will buy \$480m of food, and receive up to \$14m of EU humanitarian aid. But the government faces an enormous task if it is to ensure that the aid – or profits from it – reaches areas of genuine need, and is not intercepted by criminal organisations or corrupt officials. Supervising sup-

ply lines that stretch across more than 6,000 miles has often proved impossible for Russia's federal and regional authorities. The needy areas – often the legacy of Stalin's drive to fuel his industrial empire with minerals and gold – are dotted around an enormous sweep of land. They stretch from the far north-west across northern Siberia's Arctic edge to Russia's eastern coast on the Bering Sea, only a few hundred miles from Alaska.

Among the worst areas are in the Chukotka region, where inhabitants of Arctic villages have begun to abandon their homes to move to larger settlements because of fuel and food shortages.

In one, Mys Shmidt – where temperatures fall to minus 53C – there are reportedly only two centrally heated buildings, a school and a hospital. The authorities say they have evacuated hundreds of people, although others have been flooding in from even more desolate communities. Meanwhile, the five abandoned vessels have been left in an ice-bound river mouth on the Kamchatka peninsula after repeated efforts failed to blast them free. The Russian Ministry of Emergencies plans to send trucks to off-load the diesel once the ice becomes thick enough.

## IN BRIEF

### Clinton considers attack on Iraq

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton met senior Pentagon officials yesterday to explore options for a possible military attack on Iraq. The White House said President Saddam Hussein must "reverse course and allow full co-operation" with UN arms inspectors. Mr Clinton also discussed diplomatic options, a senior administration official said.

### Shell base in Lagos under guard

EMPLOYEES STAYED away and armed police guarded the Lagos headquarters of Royal Dutch/Shell's Nigerian oil producing unit yesterday, the anniversary of the 1995 hanging of nine Ogoni activists who had campaigned against Shell for its alleged pollution.

### Civilians flee Sierra Leone battle

HUNDREDS OF civilians have fled their homes in south-eastern Sierra Leone to avoid fighting between rebel forces and a pro-government militia. Fighting began on Monday and continued in Tongo Field, 220 miles east of Freetown.

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## Sickly cucumbers cured by aspirin

DUTCH FARMERS whose slow-growing cucumbers have been causing them headaches may have found a solution – aspirin. For the cucumbers, that is.

Scientists with the respected Dutch research institute TNO have discovered that feeding aspirin to young cucumber plants helps to prevent thickening of the root walls. Plants with thick root walls absorb water and minerals less easily, causing slower growth.

"Aspirin doesn't remove the cause of the thickening, but it reduces the level of damage," Sjoukje Heinoovaara, a plant

physiologist told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper.

Aspirin contains an acid also made naturally by plants for protection. No trace of the aspirin, which was fed to plants in a solution, was found in the cucumbers themselves.

A Dutch farmers' organisation is investigating whether the active ingredient in aspirin can be registered for use to protect their cucumbers. Until it is, farmers will not be allowed to prescribe it to their plants.

Researchers are planning to extend their experiment to aubergines and tomatoes.

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# Army starts to restore bridges

UNITED STATES army engineers - the so-called Construction Battalion - began building pontoon bridges yesterday and mending gaps in others throughout Honduras, a nation divided into isolated zones by the floods and landslides that followed Hurricane Mitch.

Linking up Honduran roads is the first phase of a National Reconstruction Plan likely to take several years. The country remains in almost a state of siege with schools and colleges closed until next year and most crops wiped out. It will take three years to get the vital banana crop, the country's mainstay export, back anywhere near normal.

University students were ordered yesterday to do 40 hours of obligatory clean-up work a week to qualify for their degrees. Many had already appeared in the streets as volunteers, along with parties of volunteer workers who march to stricken zones carrying the Honduran flag and, in perfect formation, wield their shovels like rifles and sing the national anthem.

Mexican engineers brought in a giant construction claw in an attempt to clear an accidental "dyke" blocking the River Choluteca which runs through the capital, Tegucigalpa. The dyke was formed by debris, including rubble from demolished houses, vehicles, parts of bridges and bodies swept downriver by torrential

BY PHIL DAVISON  
in Tegucigalpa

floods 10 days ago. Huge rocks slid down from nearby hills into the river, near the city centre.

The dyke is holding the river back, building up pressure and leaving the low-lying park areas of the city still under 200 feet of water. Only the parapets of large bridges, almost all broken, are visible above the surface of the stagnant, dark-brown water, under which hundreds, even thousands of bodies could be trapped.

The authorities are afraid to dynamite the dyke in case a new surge of water wipes out riverside shanty dwellings further downstream.

The country's National Election Council will hold a census as soon as possible in an attempt to confirm death figures, estimated at around 6,500 in Honduras, with 11,000 people missing, many in the capital.

Bodies still being found are stored in refrigerated container lorries holding 100 bodies each before being dumped in mass graves of up to 25.

The city yesterday decided to name Vilma de Castellanos, widow of the mayor who died in a helicopter crash during rescue efforts, as her late husband's replacement, without an election, because of his popularity and widespread sympathy for her.

The Mayor, Cesar de Castellanos, was affectionately known as El Gordito (Fatly).



An improvised ferry service crosses the Rio Humaya, replacing a destroyed bridge serving isolated villages in Honduras

David Rose

## Relief group appeals for cash

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

LEADING BRITISH agencies launched a national public appeal last night for aid for the Central American countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch, which has killed 11,000 people and left at least as many missing, presumed drowned.

The Disaster Emergency Committee, comprising 15 relief agencies, said it was already funding £5m of relief programmes from existing resources.

But the sheer scale of Mitch, the worst natural calamity to hit the region this century, was beyond the agencies' ability to cope. Funds raised by The Independent appeal launched last week are being sent directly to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Julian Filochowski of the Catholic agency Cufod, who was in the region when the hurricane struck, said 2 million people in Honduras alone - about a third of the population - had been made homeless. The hardest hit have been the poorest in shanty towns.

"We're saying, 'Give as much as you can, as fast as you can,'" said Mike Whidman, head of the British Red Cross. "And then we must keep the momentum going for weeks, right through into reconstruction."

## Ecology crisis in Nicaragua

HURRICANE MITCH has caused an "ecological disaster" in the delicate forests and mangrove swamps of western Nicaragua, according to an environmental group.

The fragile ecosystems in five provinces were ripped apart by the same storm that killed an estimated 10,000 people in Central America.

"We lost biological and cultural riches [and] medicine," said the Humboldt Centre, a non-government organisation sponsored by German and British environmental groups.

It added that some communities had lost food supplies, and in some areas, the hurricane damage was irreversible.

"Wildlife, especially iguanas, were seriously impacted by the destruction of the habitat that serves for refuge, food and reproduction," the group said.

The hardest-hit areas were the basins of the Coco and Matagalpa rivers and the Lagoon of Managua.

The rainfall from Hurricane Mitch was 15 times heavier than normal, eroding hillsides and stripping leaves from trees. The rushing water also spread

BY FILADELFO ALEMAN  
in Managua, Nicaragua

pesticides and poisonous chemicals from gold mines over wide areas, the centre said. The chemicals affected the mangrove swamps and great numbers of sea creatures, especially shrimp, were expected to die in the coming weeks.

The disappearance of some species will also allow the invasion of other harmful types such as rats and insects that could spread disease.

The Humboldt Centre appealed for international aid to try to save what was left but said it will take at least 35 years to recover some of the affected areas.

For now, relief efforts on the Coco River are concentrated on saving the native Miskito communities. About 40,000 Miskitos lost their harvests and 80 per cent saw their homes destroyed, Congressman Steadman Fagoth told a Mexican government news agency.

British ships and helicopters have tried to bring food to hamlets and rescue villagers stranded by waters that rose 50 feet.

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IN AN atmosphere of political tension and amid sporadic outbreaks of violence, the Indonesian parliament met yesterday for a special sitting intended to prepare the way for democratic elections and dismantling the oppressive apparatus of former President Suharto.

A senior member of Indonesia's ruling party said that the country's armed forces must give up the unelected parliamentary seats that they have held for the past 30 years. But the continuing power of the military was obvious as thousands of troops surrounded the national parliament building.

The 1,000 members of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) were meeting for the first time since last May when riots and demonstrations forced Mr Suharto to resign after 32 years in power. In several parts of Jakarta there were outbreaks of scuffling and stone-throwing, as crowds of angry protesters confronted bands of civilian thugs, tens of thousands of whom have been allowed into Jakarta to "keep order" during the four-day parliamentary session.

Some 30,000 troops have been deployed, supported by warships and a submarine off the coast, in the biggest show of military force since May.

But even as the military was flexing its muscles, MPR legislators were promising to reduce the armed forces'

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY AND DIARMID O'SULLIVAN in Jakarta

powerful role in politics. "Now is the time to make it clear that as of this special assembly, the social and political role of the armed forces is a temporary one," said Marzuki Darusman, the parliamentary leader of Suharto's ruling party, Golkar.

More than 1,000 of the pro-government "volunteers", who have mysteriously streamed into Jakarta in the days leading up to the assembly, were trapped in a park in central Jakarta by a crowd of locals who pelted them with stones and waved banknotes, tauntingly suggesting that they had been paid to turn out. "They are not true Muslims! They are mercenary lackeys and they are just here to cause trouble," screamed one man. The "volunteers" were eventually escorted away by the army, which is often accused of mobilising civilian thugs to intimidate its opponents.

The MPR faces an overwhelming task, made all the more difficult by the widespread cynicism and contempt with which it is viewed. Technically, the MPR is the country's most powerful political institution, responsible for electing the president and setting the guidelines for national policy. In practice, it has always been regarded as a pool of Suharto, who appointed

its members, set its agenda and used it to legitimise a thinly disguised dictatorship.

"The problem with Indonesia today," as *The Jakarta Post* put it in an editorial this week, "is that it still depends on the MPR, a body filled with reactionary advocates of the status quo who do not represent the majority."

But many MPR members have spent the past six months busily distancing themselves from the old regime. "We are fully aware that our credibility is now down in the gutter," added Mr Darusman. "This has forced us to go all out to embrace the people's aspirations."



A soldier pushing back protesters after they stoned vigilante youths guarding Proclamation Park in Jakarta yesterday

Maya Widya

## Hard-liners defy Arafat peace policy

APPALLED BY the terms of the Wye Agreement, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian opponents in Damascus are now urging the Palestine National Council to leave its charter untouched - and to keep intact the clause calling for the destruction of Israel until the Israelis agree to withdraw from all occupied territory.

The annulment of this clause - which Mr Arafat had already declared null and void in letters to the Israeli leadership more than two years ago - was a key element in the Wye memorandum, which was supposed to lead to a small Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

On the face of it, the 10 Palestinian groups with offices in Syria - including Hamas and the Islamic Jihad movement - have little chance of influencing the PNC.

"It used to be 120 members," an official of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in Beirut yesterday. "But then Arafat stuffed it with his cronies and now we think there are over 700 members."

"Last time there was a meeting, his chauffeur and bodyguard were standing there with their hands up, voting for Arafat's decisions. We need more than a third of the PNC to veto an annulment."

But the DFLP with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Hamas and Islamic Jihad are the four groups in Damascus that have a following within the occupied territory and could, theoretically, cause the PNC to reject the Wye memorandum's call for the "destruction-of-Israel" clause to be deleted. In reality, most of these groups know that - in the event of a real peace - the clause would have to go. But why they are appealing to Palestinians in the occupied territories, should it go now?

A PFLP official was very specific yesterday: "The Israelis demanded - and Arafat accepted - that the charter should be amended," he said. "But we are being asked to delete the charter's call for the destruction of the state of Israel when Israel insists that the Palestinians should not even have a state at all. If we are going to bargain over the charter, changes should be made at the end -

BY ROBERT FISK in Beirut

when the Israelis have given us back our land."

Of course, this is not the only reason for the new show of "unity" by Mr Arafat's enemies, among them George Habash of the PFLP and Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP.

Aware that the "peace process" is, to all intents and purposes, dead, Syria is preparing for a possible Palestinian doomsday by encouraging Mr Arafat's opponents to think seriously about the future.

The Palestinians in Damascus are usually good at ranting but short on ideas but they are now talking more coherently than usual.

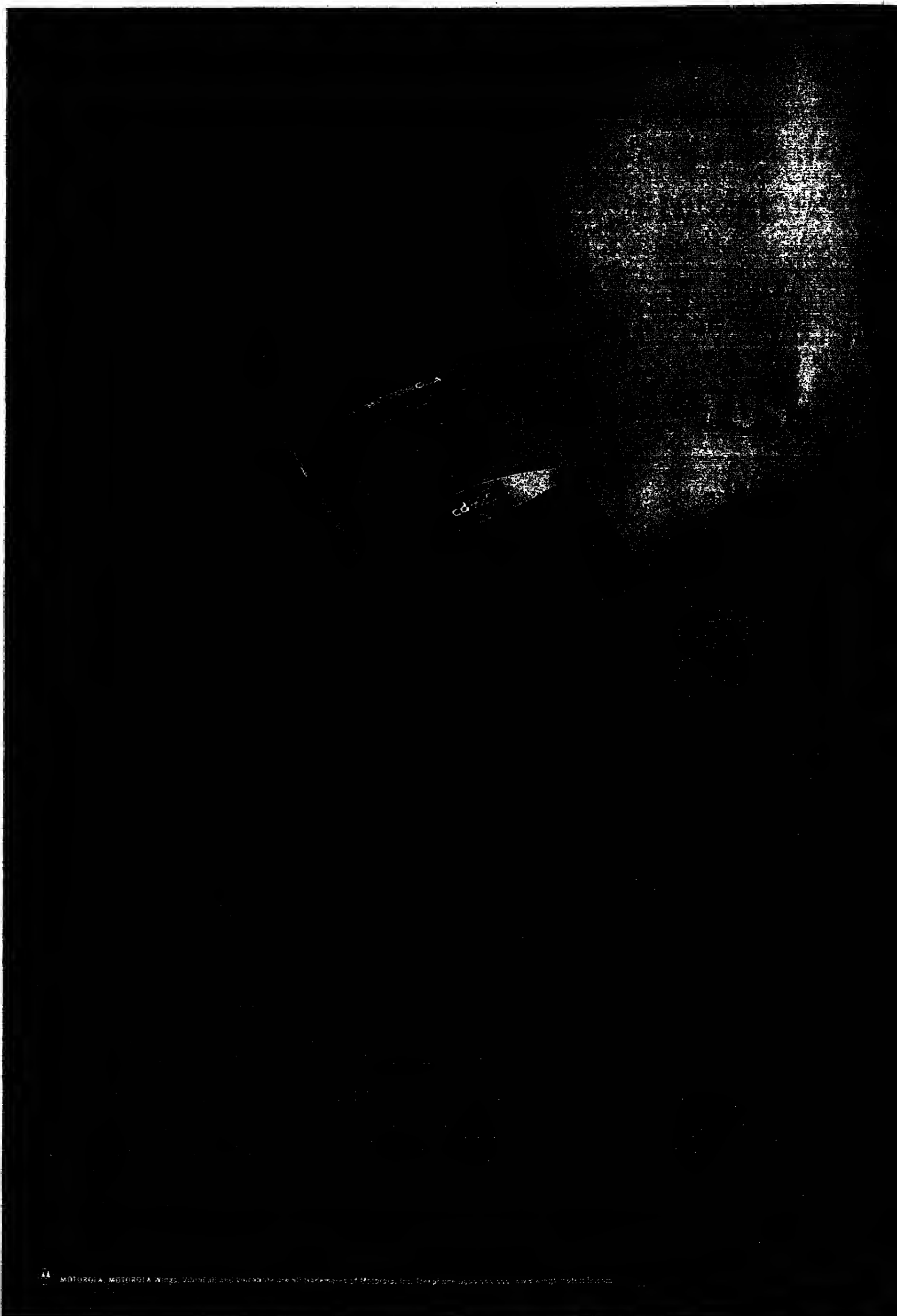
After a meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, the head of the PLO's political department, Farouk Kaddoumi, said that "once a Palestinian state is established, we will be able to replace the charter with a constitution - but now is not the right time to do it."

Ramadan Abdullah Challah, the head of Islamic Jihad - two of whose members were responsible for last week's car bomb in Jerusalem - said that the Wye Agreement represented "the last step in the process launched by Arafat to annihilate the PLO and its institutions - which means the destruction of the Palestinian people".

If Mr Challah and his colleagues do not represent a majority of Palestinians - and since Arafat now runs roughshod over any semblance of democracy, it wouldn't matter if they did - the Damascus calls for the PNC to keep the charter intact will appeal to many Palestinians who have never before given support to violence.

Even the Palestinian scholar Edward Said is calling for Palestinians to deter people from attending the PNC meeting that is intended to cancel part of the charter.

Of course, given the fact that Wye has not even begun to be implemented, there are Palestinians who say that the opposition groups in Damascus do not need to campaign against Mr Arafat any more - saying the whole "peace process" lies in tatters anyway.



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# US starts banana war with Europe

THE SIMMERING dispute between the United States and Europe over banana imports exploded into open conflict yesterday as America threatened to start a trade war.

In a significant development, after months of tension, Washington proposed sanctions against a range of European products, expected to include Scotch whisky and French wine and cheeses.

Brussels warned it would issue the US through the World Trade Organisation, where it would appeal for compensation against any action, and demand the right to impose comparable sanctions.

Although extra duties on European goods could not be imposed for four months, EU officials are alarmed that the American action indicates a protectionist response to the global economic downturn.

The long-running dispute

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Brussels

involves the favoured nation status, granted by Europe under an international treaty to banana imports from 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, (ACP) most of which are former European colonies.

Europe points out that, without special help, small producers will be undercut by the big mechanised plants in central America. Europe has long warned that removing aid to the Windward Islands in the Caribbean would devastate economies and increase the risk of growers turning to the production of drugs there as a substitute crop.

The United States is not a banana producer but has backed the case of multi-nationals, such as Chiquita, which argues that Latin American producers lose out and that EU

policy discourages diversification. The latest development revolves around a WTO ruling last year, which the EU says it has implemented through its latest import regulations.

Washington disputes that, claiming that the regime is still discriminatory, and argues that another appeal to the WTO would be time-consuming.

In all, the EU permits a limit of 857,000 tonnes of bananas to be imported free of duty from the ACP countries.

The list of products targeted by the USA yesterday will be reduced to a smaller number of items on December 15. Countries that favour the EU's banana regime, including Britain and France, are expected to be singled out for particular attention and those not so enthusiastic, such as Germany, are likely to be left relatively untouched.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-

president of the European Commission, accused Washington of "setting itself above the law" and adopting a "might is right" attitude. He warned: "If the US continues on this course it will inevitably risk damaging broader economic and political co-operation. For the US to take such unjustified action is a particularly grave error of judgement at a time when we both need to give strong, joint leadership in responding to the economic problems in the world."

Last month a US trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, accused Brussels of failing to do enough to ease the world economic crisis. At the time Sir Leon said electoral considerations were behind the tough posture. Yesterday he said: "I believe this dispute is not really about bananas. What has been done has been done for political reasons."



A triumphant grin from Jennifer Smith, the leader of the Progressive Labour Party, in Hamilton, Bermuda, yesterday after winning parliamentary elections for the first time. Ms Smith will be the new premier. AP

## AMERICAN TIMES WASHINGTON

### Smiles leave too much to imagination

A PEACEFUL Saturday morning and the local Safeway is blissfully undersubscribed. Americans, at least in Washington, leave their weekend supermarket shopping until Sunday afternoon.

Free to peruse the margarine (or what passes for margarine under euphemisms such as "Promise" and "You Can't Tell It's Not Butter"), I am interrupted by a small lady in a red Safeway smock, asking whether she can help. No, no, I'm fine, I tell her. "Can you find what you want?" she ventures again with a big smile. Yes, really.

In fact, help would be welcome, but not the sort of help that any shop assistant, even one with a PhD, could provide. There are a hundred details inscribed on every tub - "no-fat", "lo-fat", nutrient contents running into several decimal points, but none of them tells me what the stuff actually contains. It could be sunflower oil, candle-grease or whale-blubber for all the label says.

At the cereals, where all the boxes are way too big for what is inside, I'm waylaid again. Another Safeway assistant, this time a young man, stops me. "Everything all right?" he asks. "Sure," I say, hoping the "American" reply will send him on his way. But now I'm at the chaotic fruit and veg stands, contemplating the unwashed potatoes with apprehension - why can't this last word in service economies wash them and pack them in bags? I pick through the courgettes, seeking out the rare unbruised ones. A smallish, oldish man approaches. A big smile: "You find everything?" he asks in almost unintelligible English.

Suppressing the wish to launch a diatribe about the disgraceful quality of vegetables compared with any self-respecting Sainsbury/Tesco/Waitrose, I wonder briefly whether I have not suffered a sudden age-change. So many people want to help.

In mid-worry, though, I am interrupted yet again. From behind the tomatoes, out pops the same red-overalled man, looks into my trolley and then into my eyes (for heaven's sake, is it my perfume, perhaps?) and says he's pleased that I have found the courgettes. Perhaps I'd like some chicken, too? "Fried chicken - very good, better than home-made." I resist the temptation to snap back: "Who says?" and turn to accelerate my shopping before any more of these beaming gargoyles appear. What is this with Safeway?

Now supermarkets in the United States are dangerous places, with ever-fluctuating rules and a frisson of risk, even in genteel north-west Washington. You may get blackballed for taking your trolley to your car, or for not taking it. There is the so-called "social Safeway" in Georgetown where "pick up

and go" takes on a whole new meaning of an evening, and there is the "pink Safeway", which is the same only different. And there is always an outside chance you might get caught in a hold-up. But this is Saturday morning, in a leafy family-friendly suburb.

A couple of weeks and a few chance remarks later, all is revealed. I have experienced the arrival in Washington (after a year of cross-country testing) of Safeway's 20-step "superior service" programme, known to detractors as "Smile ... or else". And it turns out the dis-



Richelle Roberts: Says she was propositioned

comfort of customers who recoil from chatty comments on their shopping habits is nothing compared with the torment of staff who find their management-dictated eye-contact smiles misinterpreted.

Inevitably - this is America - Safeway's smile policy is now headed for the courts. A dozen female assistants in California are suing the company, complaining that their smiles have led male customers to try their luck, make lewd remarks, even ask them out. One of the 12, Richelle Roberts, says she was repeatedly propositioned. Another said she was followed to her car.

With the lawsuit awaiting its turn in the courts, the Safeway smile has become a cause célèbre: everyone goes to the supermarket and everyone - on the Internet, in newspaper columns and in phone-ins - wants a say, including Safeway staff who just want to be able to turn the smile off once in a while without forfeiting their bonus or their job.

So far, sentiment is running 50-50, with Safeway insisting that its own correspondence is 90 per cent in favour.

At my local branch, though, corporate ardour may be cooling. This weekend, I overheard a young man somewhere behind the organic mushrooms instructing a junior colleague to "remember that smile", but the gargoyle grins are fading. So, if you - as I do - prefer not to make your shopping a communal experience, stop being irritated by that cheery American-style "Have a nice day" when you pass the supermarket check-out. It could have been much, much worse. MARY DEJEVSKY

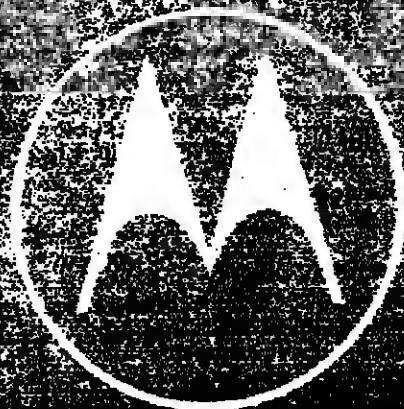
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## MOTOROLA WINGS



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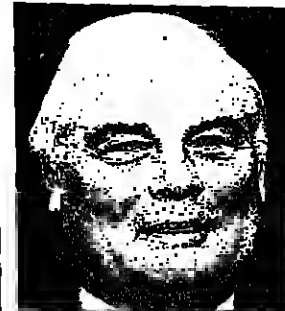
# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### New-look Ofel dials into action

A "NEW-LOOK" Ofel yesterday began operations after David Edmonds, the director-general, unveiled the full details of the telecoms watchdog's reorganisation. Ofel's 10-branch system has been replaced by two operational directorates, backed by a business support directorate. Ofel said the regulatory policy directorate, under Ann Taylor, would take responsibility for developing the UK's framework to protect consumers and encourage competition, while the compliance directorate, under Jane Whittles, will handle complaints and enforce licence conditions. Mr Edmonds' deputy, Anne Lambert, will oversee both directorates as director of operations.

### Sea Containers docks with £13m



JAMES SHERWOOD, president of Sea Containers, yesterday reported good demand in Asia and positive signs for world trade as the Bermuda-based transport group unveiled a 35 per cent rise in the year in net third-quarter earnings to \$21m (£13m).

Mr Sherwood (pictured) said visits to Asia revealed a rather different position than had been reported in the financial press, with China's economy poised for good growth this year, while there was no sign of weakness in international container trade or tourism from Japan. Revenue at the group's passenger transport and ports arm in the UK rose 9 per cent, with profits at its cross-Channel ferry services rising to \$7.5m from \$4m a year earlier.

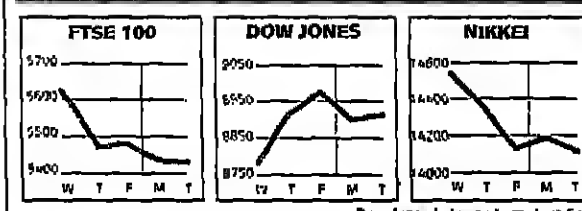
Mr Sherwood said a contract had been signed to acquire another ferry business, but the deal would be confidential until it closed. GNER, its UK rail business, is expecting a Government decision on franchise extension which, if favourable, will trigger a \$300m (£180m) investment in rolling stock and improvements.

### Business Post falls to £8.8m

BUSINESS POST founder and chief executive, Peter Kane, gave his first profit figures since replacing Mick Jones as head of the UK parcel and mail delivery company. Announcing a 6 per cent fall in profits to £8.8m, which Mr Kane attributed to a 33 per cent rise in operating costs, he vowed to "tighten up margins levels".

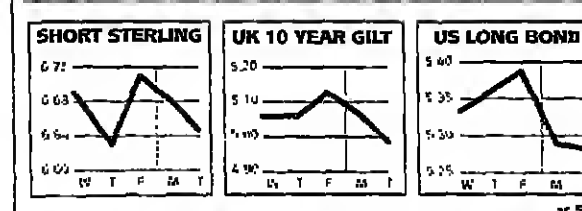
The company's share price - which has fallen by 64 per cent since its May peak of 957.5p - closed marginally up yesterday at 345p.

## STOCK MARKETS



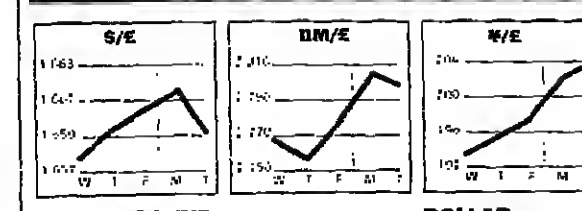
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5432.30	-1.60	-0.03	6183.70	4592.20	3.47
FTSE 250	4874.40	-60.50	-1.23	5370.80	4247.50	4.76
FTSE 350	2993.80	-6.10	-0.20	2995.10	2210.40	3.69
FTSE All Share	2510.73	-6.03	-0.24	2836.52	2163.53	3.71
FTSE Sm-MidCap	2059.60	-6.50	-0.32	2739.80	1834.40	0.06
FTSE Microcap	1134.10	-3.90	-0.34	1517.10	1045.20	1.60
FTSE AIM	814.90	-3.80	-0.46	1146.90	761.80	0.02
FTSE EURO 100	869.21	-13.86	-1.54			
Dow Jones	8217.02	20.86	0.25	9367.84	7349.99	1.68
Nikkei	14109.09	-85.45	-0.61	17392.95	12787.90	1.04
Hong Kong	9721.83	-130.60	-1.33	11926.16	6344.79	4.11
DAX	4662.78	-105.80	-2.22	6217.83	3656.62	1.90

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	6.35	6.59	6.44	-1.36	4.99	-1.59	4.70	-1.77	
US	5.40	5.38	5.03	-0.51	4.35	5.28			
Nikkei	0.38	-0.12	0.46	-0.10	0.33	-1.02	1.36	-1.07	
Germany	3.62	-0.10	3.54	-0.51	4.22	-1.38	5.73	-0.98	

## CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6571	+0.16c	1.6973
Yen	129.55	-0.59c	129.38
Yen	203.55	-0.12	211.10
Yen	100.00	+0.10	102.70

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.07	0.13	18.78	GBP	115.40	5.00	112.40
Gold (\$)	292.70	-0.05	310.00	RPI	164.40	3.20	159.30
Silver (\$)	5.00	0.01	4.67	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5497	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.09
Austria (schilling)	19.09	Netherlands (guilder)	3.0637
Belgium (franc)	56.15	New Zealand (\$)	3.0063
Canada (\$)	2.4867	Norway (krone)	12.14
Cyprus (pound)	0.7999	Portugal (escudo)	275.82
Denmark (kroner)	10.40	Saudi Arabia (dinar)	6.0413
Finland (markka)	9.3184	Singapore (\$)	2.6172
France (franc)	9.1120	Spain (peseta)	230.26
Germany (mark)	2.7270	South Africa (rand)	9.8200
Greece (drachma)	458.26	Sweden (krona)	12.88
Hong Kong (\$)	12.45	Switzerland (franc)	2.2573
Ireland (punt)	1.0902	Thailand (baht)	55.73
India (rupee)	63.07	Turkey (lira)	4875.27
Israel (shekel)	6.6007	USA (\$)	1.6209
Italy (lira)	2.701		
Japan (yen)	168.90		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.0461		
Malta (lira)	0.6055		

# Booker crisis looms as shares hit 16-year low

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

THE PROBLEMS at Booker, the struggling cash-and-carry group, reached new depths yesterday when the company issued the latest in a series of profits warnings, scrapped its final dividend and warned that it was in danger of breaching its banking covenants.

Booker shares lost almost half their value on the news, closing at a 16-year low of 64.5p.

The shock warning followed a strategic review by the new chief executive, Stuart Rose, who joined in September. He blamed weaker-than-expected sales at the core cash-and-carry business, lower margins and higher costs related to distribution changes.

In an obvious swipe at former management, Mr Rose said previous expectations of the group's prospects were "clearly over-optimistic".

Adrian Bushy, the head of Booker's cash-and-carry chain, has left the company with immediate effect. He was on a two-year contract and will be in line for compensation of up to £320,000. Mr Rose will take on direct responsibility for the division.

Mr Bushy's departure means Booker now has just two executive directors, Mr Rose and John Kitson, the finance director. Analysts said that if management resources were not so thin, Mr Kitson's position would also be under threat.

Mr Rose denied that he had bitten off more than he could chew by taking on Booker. "It's certainly a bigger bite than I thought, but I think we can make a go of it," he said. He admitted that Booker's management team was now "stretched" following the latest boardroom departure. The company is now searching for new directors, he said.

Analysts reacted with despair to the latest warning.



Stuart Rose, new Booker chief executive, said expectations had been 'clearly over-optimistic'. Jason Orton/FT

## BOOKER'S TALE OF WOE

■ 7 January 1998: Booker's first profits warning of the year.  
■ 17 March: Charles Bowen, chief executive, resigns after second profits warning.  
■ 17 August: Somerfield reveals it is in merger talks with Booker, it later pulls out amidst rumours of poor trading.

■ 7 September: Budgens says it is in talks with Booker about a reverse takeover. These talks also break down as Booker shares continue to slide. Booker denies there are problems with its banking covenants.  
■ 28 September: Stuart Rose, the former Argos boss, is appointed chief executive, heralding the

departure of long-standing chairman Jonathan Taylor.  
■ 10 November: Another profits warning is issued, and the head of the cash-and-carry chain leaves. The full-year dividend is scrapped. The company admits that it is in prospective breach of its banking covenants.

which forced them to reduce their full-year profit forecasts from £55m to £22m. "It is pretty extraordinary to produce this warning ahead of the company's peak (Christmas) trading season," one analyst said. "The final figures could be even worse if Christmas falls below expectations."

Another analyst said: "This

is a disaster. It just smacks of no management controls, no idea of what sales figures are doing, nor what costs are doing."

In response to the growing crisis in the company, which was spurred in merger talks by both Somerfield and Budgens in the summer, Mr Rose plans to dispose of the wholesale

food business. He will also examine the role of the food service division, which supplies catering businesses. Overheads will be significantly reduced with the closure of the head office in London. This will affect up to 50 jobs, although there will be redundancies across the company. Investment in Booker's in-

ternational operations will be stopped for the foreseeable future. The collapse of Booker's share price means the company is now worth only around £150m. But analysts said they regarded a bid as unlikely until it is clear that Booker has begun to resolve its problems. Outlook, page 19

# CBI predicts hard times for manufacturing sector

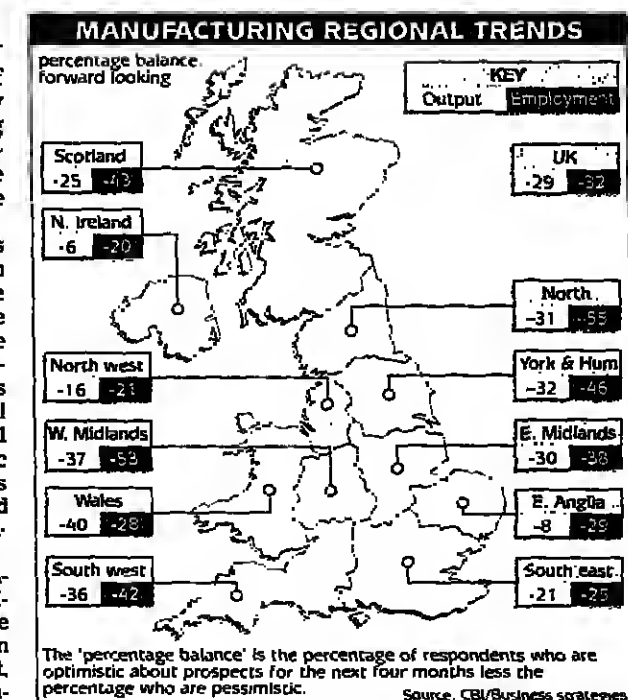
BY LEA PATERSON

THE CONFEDERATION of British Industry yesterday warned that the manufacturing sector was on the brink of recession, with companies in the North-east worst hit by the economic slowdown.

Manufacturers in all regions of the UK experienced falls in demand and output over the last four months, and most are gloomy about prospects for the remainder of the year, according to the latest CBI/Business Strategies survey of regional trends. Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director of economic analysis, said: "If expectations are borne out, then that would suggest we are entering a manufacturing recession."

Andy Schofield, senior economist at the consultancy Business Strategies, said: "These results confirm that the region is immune, with falls in output, demand and prices all contributing to ebbing confidence."

Over the past four months, manufacturing output in six regions - the North, Yorkshire and the Humber, the South-west, the North-west, Wales and Northern Ireland - fell by the sharpest rate since 1991.



when the country was in the grip of recession. Total orders fell by more than expected in over half of the regions, while manufacturers in all regions but Northern Ireland reported falls in employment.

Mr Junankar said: "Further falls in orders and sharply falling confidence levels reflect the continuing battle manufacturers face."

Looking ahead, the outlook for manufacturing remains

bleak. Over the next four months, manufacturers in all 11 regions believe output and employment will fall. Firms in 10 regions expect to reduce plant and machinery investment, with only manufacturers in Wales expecting to maintain current investment levels.

Confidence among manufacturers in the North - one of the worst hit regions - has slumped to levels last seen at the end of 1990. Most manufacturers, however, are less gloomy about exports, after recent falls in the pound.

The CBI said: "The fall in the level of sterling against the mark was reflected by a less pronounced decline in confidence. The proportion of firms citing prices as a constraint on exports dropped in over half the UK regions."

Last week's cut in interest rates was a "glimmer of light" for UK manufacturers, according to Mr Junankar.

He raised doubts about the Government's latest forecasts, which predict the UK economy will grow between 1 per cent and 1.5 per cent in 1999. Mr Junankar said: "They seem to be a little on the optimistic side."

Outlook, page 19

# M&S speeds up succession

BY NIGEL COPE

MARKS & SPENCER is understood to have accelerated its plans to resolve its management succession row in order to prevent further damaging splits at boardroom level.

The company is thought to be lining up a meeting of the full board as soon as all directors, including its non-executives, are available.

The intention to speed up the decision-making process followed a five-hour board meeting at M&S's head office in Baker Street, London, on Monday which included some of the non-executive directors.

That came after Sir Richard Greenbury, M&S chairman, cut short a combined business trip and holiday in India to fly back to help resolve the crisis.

M&S originally planned to make an announcement about the succession in May after it had completed its strategic review. However, the intensity of the speculation over Sir Richard's successor means it is highly unlikely that the company will be able to wait that long.

The company has also clamped down on speaking to the media in order to try to stem the tide of speculation.

It is thought that several non-executives support Sir Richard's plan that Peter Salisbury, the managing director in charge of general merchandise, should become chief executive, with Sir Richard moving to the chairmanship. It is possible that Sir Martin Jacob, chairman of Prudential, which is M&S's biggest institutional investor, may support a different approach.

A different other M&S directors below managing director level are believed to favour a more radical change at the top. This would indicate support for Keith Oates, deputy chairman, who has made a direct approach to the non-executives to advance his candidacy as either chairman or chief executive.

Chris Littimoden, head of the US operations, remains an outside candidate. There was a feeling yesterday that Lord Stone, managing director in charge of food operations, might emerge as a potential compromise candidate, but this was discounted by some insiders as "unlikely".

Analysts expressed surprise yesterday that M&S shares had risen as the leadership battle intensified. Yesterday they closed 18p higher at 436p.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

AT ONE time down 74.4 points, Footsie ended little changed at 5,432.3. Utilities turned in a strong display and retail shares largely overcame a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey.

Despite the continuing boardroom battle, Marks & Spencer rose 18p to 436p but Storehouse, the subject of recent profit downgrades, fell 7.5p to 168p, fashion chain Next lost 23.5p to 490p and Great Universal Stores gave up 21p to 625p.

Derek Pain, page 23

### NEW YORK

STOCKS TURNED higher in midday trading after drifting early in the session but investors were expected to remain cautious about the staying power of Wall Street's recent strength.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 25 at 8,923 after shedding as much as 43 points earlier. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index was up by 7 points at 1,868, with shares in internet companies such as Yahoo! and Amazon.com leading the rebound.

### TOKYO

STOCKS FELL as investors doubted whether the government's next set of economic measures, to be unveiled on Monday, can pull the economy out of its worst slump in half a century.

Cosmetics maker Shiseido and Komatsu, the world's second-biggest construction equipment maker, lead the fall on grimly half-year earnings. The Nikkei 225 stock index slid 86.45 points or 0.6 per cent to 14,108.09. Futures contracts led the decline, falling 120 to 14,110 in Osaka.

### SINGAPORE

THE STRAITS TIMES index fell almost 4 per cent, after the Singapore dollar fell to 1.645 against the dollar on Monday, as news broke that the island state is officially in recession.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said yesterday that the economy contracted by 0.7 per cent in the third quarter compared with last year. Although this was better than had been expected, the stock market still closed down 47.22 points at 1,172.06.

### FRANKFURT

THE BLUE-CHIP Xetra DAX index fell 81.04 points, or 1.7 per cent, to 4,681.34 points, while the floor-traded DAX shed 2.22 per cent to 4,662.78 after a lower opening on Wall Street. Traders said nine-month results and cautious comments about the future by BASF, Germany's largest chemical maker, had weighed heavily on market sentiment.

BASF shares fell 3.2 per cent after chief executive Juergen Strube said the firm's 1999 result would be worse than this year's.



# What lurks in Booker's woodshed?

**JUST WHEN** everyone thinks it can't possibly get any worse at Booker, it does. Never a company to let a month drift by without a profits warning, the hapless cash and carry group treated the market to a corker of a stock exchange announcement yesterday. It had just about everything.

There was the scrapping of the dividend, the pointed remarks about "over-optimistic expectations" by previous management, a boardroom departure, the threat of job cuts and even the possible breach of its banking covenants. It was a full "kitchen sink" job.

And perhaps this is the point. Stuart Rose has only been Booker's chief executive for about six weeks. Like a new manager at a football club, he has the opportunity to size everything up, decide what he doesn't like and justifiably throw it overboard whilst blaming it all on his predecessors. Coming this early in his tenure, Mr Rose cannot be held responsible for a further plunge in profits.

Even so the scale of it is quite breathtaking and questions must be asked about why the market was not alerted before. It is only a matter of weeks since Jonathan Taylor,



## OUTLOOK

the erstwhile Booker chairman, was insisting that there was no black hole in Booker's accounts and that the company was not in danger of breaching its banking covenants. He was speaking after first Somersetfield and then Budgens had run away from the idea of merging with Booker. Neither company said exactly why it had taken flight but the implication in at least one case was that something nasty had been found in the woodshed.

One has to wonder why Mr Taylor and his finance director, John Kitson, failed to notice it.

Trading has undoubtedly got tougher in the last few weeks, as retailers like Marks & Spencer and

Boots have said, but surely not by this scale of magnitude.

All of this leaves Booker in a pretty sorry state.

It has just two executive directors, including Mr Kitson, and a business that seems to be heading south at a rate of knots. Mr Rose is faced with the task of exiting a number of businesses whilst trying to revitalise the core chain. After this long in the doldrums and dogged by takeover and merger speculation, divisional management must be completely demoralised.

But as this column has argued before, Mr Rose ought to be able to do something with a business with sales of more than £5bn. The previous management invested heavily in the business in their final years, and barring a collapse in consumer spending that should start to pay off. But it will be a long road back and if there are any upsets from now on, Mr Rose will have no one else to blame.

## Stock markets

CALLING THE bottom of a market is as difficult as spotting its peak. This column had the stock market, as

tracked by the FTSE100 index, bottoming at 4,200. In fact, the low point came on 5 October at 4,648.7, which all goes to show, it never pays to be greedy. With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to see two events as establishing a convincing floor beneath Western share prices.

The first was the Federal Reserve's rescue of Long Term Capital Management. From the start, on 17 July, the bear market was more an internalised response to the financial contagion spreading from the developing world than anything else. In this respect it was quite unlike most previous corrections, which tend to be caused by a build up of inflationary pressures, an increase in interest rates, and a consequent reduction in credit and liquidity.

The collapse of LTCM threatened to turn this contagion into financial armageddon. Imagine what might have happened. The enforced liquidation of a \$200bn portfolio would have moved the market dramatically further against the herd who had been following similar trading strategies. There would have been multiple bankruptcies and an unbreast of erosion of capital throughout the Western banking system.

Our own prediction of 4,200 for the

index might have looked optimistic in the extreme.

The second piece of life support also came from the US Federal Reserve - a second cut in US interest rates. Although only a quarter point, the unscheduled nature of the cut nonetheless sent an important message to markets. Alan Greenspan and other policy makers were not entirely asleep at the wheel after all, but were still capable of decisive action.

Even so, the subsequent bounce in the market has taken even the most bullish commentators by surprise. The FTSE100 index has recovered more than half its fall and as things stand, it's up 6 per cent on the year as a whole. Recovery in the FTSE mid cap has been more cautious, while the small cap index remains well below both its peak and its starting level for the year. But, on average, even these companies have shown a considerable recovery since the market bottomed.

The bounce in the US has been more spectacular still, with the Standard & Poor's composite now back to within spitting distance of its peak. As far as Western stock markets are concerned, then, it is almost as if the crisis of the late summer never happened. We all know that markets are

prone to exaggeration, to bouts of panic both on the up and downside.

Despite the sophistication of modern analysis and trading systems, markets remain the creature of primal psychology - fear and greed. Traders move in herds, perhaps more so now that so many of them are not genuine investors than ever before, panicking the market down one month only to drive it up the next for fear of missing their turn.

This in itself is a good reason for remaining suspicious of the present recovery. Plainly we are now in much calmer waters than we have been. And it no longer appears likely that a big player in financial markets is about to go bust, causing a fresh bout of panic. On the other hand, the economic fundamentals don't seem to have changed very much.

The UK economy is slowing rapidly; the US and the rest of Europe cannot be too far behind.

As yesterday's regional trends survey shows, the recession in manufacturing is about to become official. A full recession across the whole economy still seems unlikely, but it would be unwise to bet that way. For investors, caution must remain the order of the day. That is not to say that all the bargains have gone, but the

emphasis, as ever, has to be on stock selection for the long term.

## Battle for Bilton

HAS SLOUGH ESTATES done enough to secure control of Bilton? The outcome, to be decided on Friday, depends on three shareholders - the Glenhazel Investment Trust, the Percy Bilton Charity, and Schroders asset management. If the trust, which is largely owned by members of the late Percy Bilton's family, votes against, the charity will follow suit and the company may survive.

For these shareholders, as for many family trusts, the critical factor will be income. Bilton may have been unimaginatively and nepotistically managed over the years since Percy Bilton's death, but unlike Slough, it does have an 18 year record of unbroken dividend growth.

It's hard to see how Slough's 307p share bid could be better invested for income growth, while the discount to net assets of 340p a share is still quite wide. If sufficient members of the Bilton family want capital realisation, then it's all over. But it could be that Slough has been just a tad too mean to guarantee victory.



Dr John Padfield, chief executive of biotech firm Chiroscience. "The idea of clusters is an excellent one. In theory"

Keith Dobney

# Bringing heads together

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THE BRITISH equivalent of California's Silicon Valley is a long way away from the brash and boastful character of its American counterpart. Forget the grand buildings and the Californian-style freeways, the gateway to the hub of the UK's hi-tech industry is a small slip road off the A1309 Milton Road. Thirty yards away, a modest roundabout with a small green sign finally tells you where you are. Welcome to Cambridge Science Park, 180 acres of research courtesy of Cambridge University's Trinity College, the landlord, and 4,500 scientists, suits and sandwich ladies.

With over 70 firms, the park is the largest concentration of information technology and drug development companies in the country and one of the biggest in Europe. It is also a model "cluster", the government's new-found instrument to inject efficiency and entrepreneurial spirit into UK plc. According to "clustering" theories, the physical proximity of hi-tech businesses at an early stage of the development of their products encourages collaboration and helps them survive the difficult start-up years.

The government is so keen on clusters that the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, is set to make them a key part of New Labour's industrial policy in a white paper on competitiveness to be published next month. Mr Mandelson is said to have been very impressed by the idea during a recent visit to Silicon Valley and plans to trigger a "cluster explosion" in the UK over the coming years.

Scottish Enterprise, the development agency, has been among the first to move, by appointing Bob Downes, one of its top officials, to the brand-new post of "head of clusters".

But do clusters work? Cambridge Science Park was?

News Analysis: It may be Peter Mandelson's model for a 'cluster explosion', but Cambridge's hi-tech Science Park is hard to get to and has few facilities

And can they live up to the government's dream of being efficiency-enhancing islands of research and development?

Most of the tenants of Cambridge Science Park do not buy the government's rhetoric. John Padfield, the chief executive of Chiroscience, one of the UK's largest and most successful biotechnology companies, is a classic example of a disaffected cluster customer.

Dr Padfield's company has spent more than six years in the Cambridge cluster and is now moving to a different site south of the city because it feels the park has failed to deliver on its promises. His complaints highlight one of the key issues for present and future clusters.

If business groupings are to succeed, physical closeness is not enough. To spur rival firms into interacting business parks must foster a "sense of community" which encourages people to share ideas.

"The idea of clusters is an excellent idea in theory, but if someone asked me: 'Has Cambridge Science Park created a community or is it just a phys-

ical collection of people? I would have to reply the latter".

In the experience of Dr Padfield and many other executives, the famed interaction with other firms has been close to nothing and the benefits of pooling resources and bouncing ideas off each other is almost non-existent.

Part of the problem is in the lack of common facilities where the mingling between the cluster's inhabitants can take place. The lesson that future developments will have to learn from Cambridge is that scientists need to be dragged away from their laboratories by the lure of common amenities. In the Cambridge Park these are conspicuous by their absence.

With its low-rise buildings nestling among hills and lakes, the park looks more like a elderly people's holiday camp than a thriving centre of business development. Walking around the park at lunchtime is a bit like taking a stroll in the Sahara. There is only one restaurant and conference hall, the Trinity Centre, which is regarded as totally inadequate by

most tenants. One executive said he would be "embarrassed" to bring his customers there. The companies have complained to Trinity and the college has launched a major multimillion pound plan to build a new conference centre and health club by the Millennium.

This should drag the boffins out of their shells and should help fulfill the park's potential, according to its supporters. They point to a number of other advantages brought about by clustering. First, the use of common suppliers for things such as technical equipment and building maintenance triggered sizeable cost-savings for the park's tenants. More importantly, cluster enthusiasts believe that having a hi-tech grouping with close geographical and financial links to a hotbed of research such as Cambridge University is a major drive in staff recruitment. Stephen Inglis, the research director at Cantab Pharmaceuticals, another leading biotech firm, says that the eight years spent at the park "have been great".

"There is a warm glow associated with a company which is linked to Cambridge and is next to the University. Being here gave us the credibility to attract the right-quality people". John Brown, the chief executive of Peptide Therapeutics, another drug company, agrees.

"Cambridge is a great attraction for the kind of people we want to employ. They like to work here because they like the hi-tech culture".

Dr Inglis believes that, although Cambridge Park has been going for almost 30 years, it needs more time to bear fruit. "There is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and this coalescence of interest will create its own momentum."

Being able to attract the country's best brains is a powerful selling point. But if the Cambridge experience is anything to go by, even that advantage could be jeopardised by poor infrastructure.

Colin Webb, the head of European development at the US biotech giant Amgen, said that potential applicants for one of the company's positions had been put off by the park's location. Traffic is one of the location's biggest drawbacks.

The consensus among the park's workers is that peak-hours congestion, when most of them get to work, is horrendous and makes entering and exiting the park a harrowing experience. One worker said that it takes him 45 minutes, on average, to leave the site every evening - hardly the kind of lifestyle to endeavour the park to the UK's best scientists.

Staff can also be deterred by high house prices in the city, which are partly due to the presence of the park. As one executive put it: "No body knows whether clusters work, but the clear lesson from Cambridge is that they certainly do not work when the infrastructure is not right."

# British executives fall short in fat-cat league

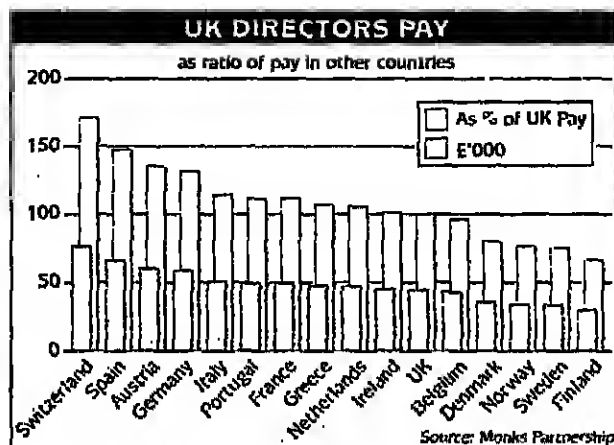
BY JOHN WILLCOCK

THE WIDESPREAD idea that UK executives are overpaid fat cats took a knock yesterday when Monks Partnership, a remuneration consultancy, published a league table showing that British directors are paid around 30 per cent less than their counterparts in Germany, Austria, Spain and Switzerland.

The UK is ranked at only 11th place out of 16 countries, after taking into account pay after tax and the cost of living in each country. The Monks Partnership, an independent consultancy based in Saffron Walden, Essex, surveyed non-board directors working for companies with an average turnover of £50m.

The survey shows that British directors in this category are roughly level with those in Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Greece, France, Portugal and Italy. In contrast, Scandinavian directors' pay is 75 per cent of UK pay levels.

Tony Vernon-Harcourt, the chairman of Monks Partnership, said: "Based on our data, the pay of a director of a £50m subsidiary company is at a broadly similar level to pay in seven out of 15 other western European countries."



"Our figures do, however, only look at cash remuneration. Other elements of the remuneration package such as pension or share options, which are both complex to value, may affect the director's overall position," he said.

For instance, cash salaries tend to be a lot higher in Germany than in the UK, but share options are only just being introduced on the Continent, whereas such options have been commonplace in Britain for more than a decade.

Mr Vernon-Harcourt added that the strong pound has probably affected the figures, driving the UK's cost of living up, despite the UK having a relatively low tax regime.

"The big surprise is Spain, which has really shot up the rankings", he said. "Switzerland, Germany and Austria have always tended to be on top, ever since we started doing the league tables in 1988."

He also said that what may be broadly true about pay for directors of a £50m subsidiary may not be true of a parent company. There was also considerably less disclosure about executive pay on the Continent. The only country which approached the UK's openness on this subject was Holland. Mr Vernon-Harcourt said.

## PRODUCT RECALL

### TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER 55g JAR

The British Pepper & Spice Co Limited is taking the precautionary measure of recalling a small batch of their product that is sold as TESCO WHOLE BLACK PEPPER because of suspected microbiological contamination.

This recall ONLY affects the black peppercorns supplied in TESCO 55g jars priced at £1.54. NO OTHER PEPPER TYPE, PEPPER PACK OR PEPPER REFILL IS AFFECTED.

The recalled product is contained in a 55g glass jar with a black plastic cap, and the code 8296 (followed by any other letters/numbers) is printed in yellow/green ink on the rim of the cap.

The date code for the product is Best Before End Oct. 2000.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

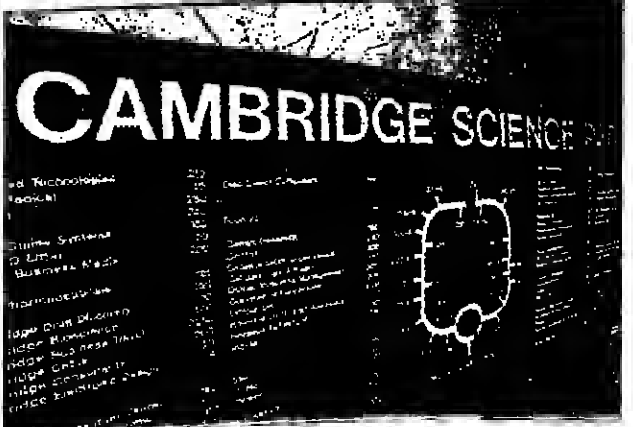
Customers who have purchased the above product should return it to the Customer Service Desk at the most convenient Tesco store for a full refund.

Tesco apologise for any inconvenience caused.

For further information, please contact:

The British Pepper & Spice Co Ltd  
Rhosili Road, Brackmills, Northampton, NN4 7AN.

**FREEPHONE: 0800 917 8390**



Cambridge Science Park, Peter Mandelson's model for a British 'cluster explosion'









# Weinberg attacks IFAs' commission

**SIR MARK WEINBERG**, one of the leading architects of financial regulation in the UK, yesterday launched a blistering attack on independent financial advisers, accusing them of an inherent conflict of interest which misleads clients and restricts competition.

In a lecture to the Linked Life Assurance Group in London, Sir Mark said financial regulations were working against

BY ANDREW VERITY

the interests of millions of policyholders who were wrongly led to believe the advice they were getting was independent.

Sir Mark, who designed key parts of the 1986 Financial Services Act, said the independence of financial advisers (IFAs) was compromised by the level of commission they received for selling an insurer's products.

"I cannot think of a greater conflict of interest... An IFA would not recommend an Equitable Life term assurance policy even if its rates were the lowest of the market - nor would he recommend a Virgin tracker fund unit trust," Sir Mark said.

He accused networks of independent advisers of using their marketing muscle to negotiate higher commissions

from the life offices whose products they sell.

"The people who run the networks will put their hands on their hearts and say that they choose the life companies purely on merit and without consideration of the commission rates offered... Their position can only be described as one of a conflict of interest and a pretty fundamental conflict at that."

"I just do not believe that, if a particular life company produced a highly competitive product and kept its commission [low], the networks would all put that company's product on a must-recommend list. The management of networks spend far too much of their time negotiating commission levels with life companies for anyone to believe commission does not play a part."

Independent financial advisers usually take commission from a life company which passes on the cost in the form of higher charges to the policyholder.

The higher the commission they charge, the poorer the policy benefits.

Sir Mark is now calling for a shake-up of regulations which would bar IFAs from calling themselves independent un-

less they refuse to take commission.

Jim Gaskin, managing director of Countrywide, one of the largest networks of IFAs, said: "It is sad Sir Mark is long on rhetoric and short on fact. Many of my members sell Equitable Life and National Savings policies and one of the most recommended offices is Standard Life - which doesn't pay the highest commission."

## IN BRIEF

### Investment in Asia unabated

GLOBAL FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) hit a record high in 1997, according to a United Nations report yesterday, with flows to Asia seemingly unaffected by the region's economic crisis. FDI inflows rose 19 per cent to a record high of \$400bn, with almost 40 per cent earmarked for the developing world.

### Norwich moves

NORWICH UNION is to relocate around 25 staff from its UK equity and global fixed interest management teams from Norwich to London in December as part of a move to run its asset management arm from its City offices.

### Merger talks halt

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS KIDMANS IMPEY AND MOORES ROWLAND have called off merger talks, citing differences between the firms over the construction and structure of the merged entity. Both firms said they would continue to seek merger opportunities.

### French prices fall

FRANCE'S INFLATION rate is at its lowest in more than 40 years, while Germany's rate fell to a seven-year low, data published yesterday revealed. France's consumer price index fell 0.1 per cent in October from September, and rose 0.4 to 0.5 per cent from a year earlier, while German prices fell 0.2 per cent from September.

### Nissan in the red

NISSAN MOTOR, Japan's second-largest car maker, yesterday forecast its sixth full-year loss in seven years as it unveiled a \$2.55bn yen (\$26m) loss in the first half. Without a 76bn yen charge on its plunging investments in banks and other securities, Nissan would have remained in the black, analysts said.

### Kodak jobs cut

EASTMAN KODAK, the US photography giant, is to cut hundreds of jobs at its copier assembly division because of slowing sales to its main customer, UK-based Danka Business Systems. The dismissals follow almost 20,000 job cuts which were announced last year.

## Women win in public sector pay

BY LEA PATERSON

THE PUBLIC sector pays better than the private sector, with women faring particularly well, according to a study released yesterday.

However, "Public Pay in the 1990s", a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), finds that the differential between public sector and private sector pay has narrowed over the last two decades, largely because of structural changes in the economy such as privatisation and declining union coverage.

Women, especially those with school-leaving qualifications - that is, O-levels/GCSEs - do best out of working in the public sector.

The reports finds that women working in the civil service earn 25 per cent more than private-sector counterparts, while women working in the National Health Service and higher education earn a "public sector wage premium" of 23 per cent.

Overall, women employed in the public sector earn 8 per cent more than counterparts in the private sector, the IFS says, although this differential is far smaller than it used to be.

In the early 1980s women in the public sector earned 16 per cent more than those in the private sector.

The authors of the report -

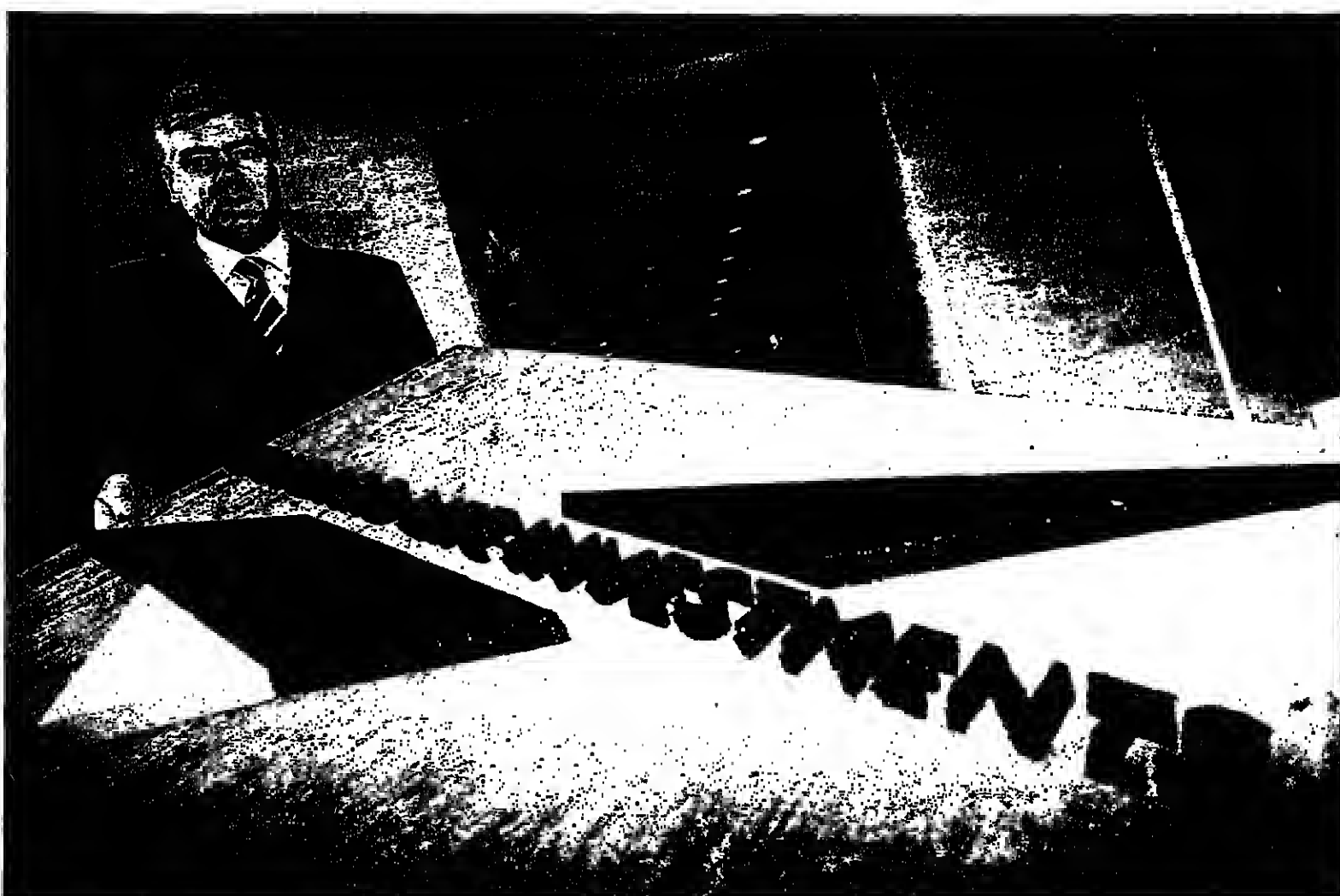
Richard Disney, Alison Goodman, Amanda Gosling and Chris Tindler - say: "Women seem to do rather better in the public sector than the private sector, which we believe stems from the wider range of occupations available in the public sector to women with school-leaving qualifications, such as teaching and nursing."

The study found that highly-qualified men fare poorly in the public sector. Male degree holders in the public sector earn 6 per cent less than private-sector counterparts, while men working in the national health service and higher education pay a "public sector wage penalty" of more than 8 per cent.

Overall, men in the public sector earn roughly the same as their private-sector counterparts. Fifteen years ago, the public-private sector wage differential for men was 8 per cent.

Other losers in the public sector are men and women with no qualifications. Unqualified men in the public sector now earn the same as private-sector counterparts, according to the study. In 1983, they earned a wage premium of just less than 5 per cent.

Public sector workers tend to fare better in recessions than those in the private sector, but do worse during economic booms when private sector pay rises faster than does public sector pay.



Sandy Crombie, chief executive of the new subsidiary, claims Standard Life already outperforms established fund managers Eyecatchers

## Standard Life launches £60bn investment house

STANDARD LIFE, the UK's second-biggest life insurer, mounted a challenge to the City's big independent fund managers yesterday when it launched a new investment house to manage £60bn, and is aiming to manage £100bn within five years.

The group will begin by managing Standard Life's existing funds, which hold shares amounting to 2 per

cent of the UK equity market. It will also aim at a 5 per cent share of the retail investment market, managing money for private investors. Standard Life said it had

"aggressive plans" to challenge established fund managers, such as bidding for contracts to run hundreds of millions of pounds at a time for big pension funds.

Sandy Crombie, the chief executive of the new company, claimed the insurer had already outperformed established fund managers in the market to run pooled pension funds on behalf of small and medium-sized companies.

The company, which has taken four years to organise, will have a staff of 500, most based in Edinburgh with 30 in Montreal, Canada.

## Ryanair profits take off

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

INTERIM PROFITS at Ryanair, the budget airline, soared to record levels despite a bitter price war in the European market and the recent weakness of sterling against the Irish punt.

The Dublin airline yesterday said pre-tax profit rose 24 per cent to £229.4m (£26m) for the six months to 30 September, compared with £21.28m a year ago. Low-cost Ryanair said the rise had been achieved in spite of intense competition, adding that there could be at least one casualty among its rivals.

Fares on major routes in Europe have plunged as budget operators, including Go, easyJet, Air UK, Ryanair and Debonair, have begun competing with established carriers such as KLM and British Midland.

But Michael O'Leary, Ryanair chief executive, said: "We remain confident that our operating and trading performance will continue to be resilient despite the increasingly competitive market."

## Woolwich sells agencies

BY ANDREW VERITY

WOOLWICH LEFT the estate agency market yesterday when it sold a network of 167 branches to Alick Smith, the property entrepreneur, at a £9m loss.

The mortgage bank sold its business for £23m to Wintertur Life, one of its financial services partners, which immediately sold it on to Mr Smith, chairman of Spicer McColl, the independent chain of estate agents.

The sale allows Woolwich to exit a market dominated by smaller agents, which have taken business from big chains

through better local knowledge.

Woolwich entered estate agency in 1967 and expanded its network in 1991 when it bought 160 branches from Prudential. It has since scaled back its network in an effort to cut costs.

The sale follows similar moves by Abbey National and Lloyds, which each sold estate agencies built up in the late 1980s. The businesses tend to have high overheads and can struggle to make a profit when the housing market is slow.

Spicer McColl, a 104-branch chain before the deal, was founded by Mr Smith and his son Paul in 1993. Spicer will continue to introduce new mortgage business to the Woolwich through a link with Wintertur. A Woolwich spokesman said: "We have always made it fairly clear that the main reason for being in estate agency is that it is a good source of business. From our point of view we are confident that we can maintain that. Now we have effectively got the business without the cost of running it."

COMPANY RESULTS					
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Standard Life (S)	22,221m (48,327m)	8,871m (9,375m)	11.5p (12.5p)	5.0p (4.4p)	05/11/98
Chamberlain (C)	15,451m (13,877m)	1,680m (1,357m)	14.5p (13.27p)	3.30p (3.0p)	17/12/98
Cotton (C)	1,835m (1,900m)	-0.22m (-0.42m)	-0.76p (-1.51p)	-	-
Daily Crest Group (D)	384.4m (403.2m)	20.7m (18.7m)	13.5p (11.9p)	3.85p (3.50p)	22/01/99
Dorchester (D)	7.2m (5.11m)	2.07m (1.2m)	14.75p (14.4p)	8.5p (4.4p)	11/11/98
Westpoint (W)	70,055m (72,859m)	14,519m (15,854m)	2.83p (-13.22p)	2.4p (2.1p)	12/02/99
Unicredit (U)	26.7m (22.8m)	2.73m (2.05m)	12.0p (6.7p)	5.1p (4.7p)	16/11/98
Autonomy Corp (A)	1,714m (1,585m)	-0.42m (-0.22m)	-1.1p (-0.7p)	1.74p (1.4p)	27/11/98
British Airways (B)	4,725m (4,402m)	385m (400m)	3.30p (3.15p)	2.21p (2.0p)	21/10/98
Carri (C)	97.3m (100.97m)	-1.84m (-1.65m)	-17.4p (-20.8p)	4.52p (3.52p)	27/11/98
OCG (O)	19,867.7m (19,007.2m)	16,788m (16,277.8m)	15.74p (12.12p)	1.80p (1.4p)	14/12/98
Dragonair (D)	7,338m (4,030m)	1,220m (1,505m)	9.8p (8.7p)	0.5p (0.4p)	18/11/98
UHL (U)	15,574m (12,211m)	2,810m (2,130m)	7.44p (6.25p)	1.80p (1.4p)	29/12/98
HTF (H)	1,001m (1,001m)	0.88m (0.508m)	1.45p (0.23p)	0.16p (0.1p)	18/11/98
Pacific Mills (P)	1.45m (1.22m)	-0.19m (-0.227m)	-1.05p (-1.47p)	0.5p (0.1p)	12/09/98
The Personal (T)	20,958m (20,958m)	8,862m (8,271m)	7.64p (7.25p)	1.4p (1.25p)	19/02/99
Robert Williams (R)	119.54m (125.23m)	8.15m (8.55m)	-	-	-

(P) - Profit (I) - Interest (Q) - Quarterly

## Business Direct Interest Rates Change

With effect from Tuesday 10th November 1998  
The Co-operative Bank Business Direct Account  
Credit Interest will be as follows:

Balance	Gross AER%	Gross %	Net AER%	Net %
£2,000+	2.20	2.18	1.77	1.75
£25,000+	2.78	2.75	2.22	2.20
£100,000+	3.82	3.75	3.04	3.00
£250,000+	5.90	5.75	4.70	4.60

**THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK**  
THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC, HEAD OFFICE  
1 BALLOON STREET, MANCHESTER M60 4EP

## Senior Engineering pays £34m for Jet

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

SENIOR ENGINEERING, the acquisitive specialist aero-engineering group, has bought Jet Products Corporation for \$34m (£33.7m), mainly in cash and inclusive of company debt.

Jet, based in San Diego, California, is a specialist maker of components for aero-engines and turbines, and is a leading supplier to General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce and the Airbus range of aircraft. It made profits of \$5m on sales of £27.2m in the year to the end of September.

Ronald Blair, Jet's president and largest shareholder with 40 per cent of the business, will take \$4m in shares in Senior as part of his consideration and

will remain as general manager of Jet, together with the rest of Jet's executive team.

The deal is the largest of Senior's nine acquisitions in seven countries in the past 12 months and will raise the value of the Rickmansworth-based group's growing aerospace revenues by a further 50 per cent. The business will operate in parallel with Senior's existing US businesses and widen the range of products it can offer.

Senior's shares more than halved in value during the summer market slump before staging a modest recovery. Yesterday they fell 5p to 125p.

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STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES						
100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000							10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100						
1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000							210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300						
3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000							410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500						
5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000							610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700						
7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000							810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900						
9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000							10100 10200 10300 10400 10500 10600 10700 10800 10900 11000						

MAIN MOVERS									
RISERS					FALLS				
STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close	STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close
100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000					100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000				
1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000					210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300				
3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000					410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500				
5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000					610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700				
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9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000					10100 10200 10300 10400 10500 10600 10700 10800 10900 11000				

MARKET LEADERS									
TOP 20 VOLUMES AT 5pm					FTSE 100 INDEX				
STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close	STOCK	High	Low	Open	Close
100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000					100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000				
1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000					210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300				
3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000					410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500				
5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000					610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700				
7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000					810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900				
9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000					10100 10200 10300 10400 10500 10600 10700 10800 10900 11000				

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# Utilities rescue struggling Footsie

SHARES IN Marston Thompson & Evershed, brewer of one of the nation's most renowned traditional beers, were in a rare old ferment as rumours of a takeover bid swirled around.

The price rose 26p to 198.5p in brisk trading, with stories circulating that Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries could be planning a 300p-a-share strike.

A merger would make sense in the highly competitive brewing industry. Both Marston and Wolves have felt the impact of the brewing upheaval, which has relegated regional brewers to the poor relations of the drinks industry.

The shares of the two have seen better days. Marston was 360p in the summer, Wolves, unchanged at 415p, touched 560p in June and 705p last year. Clearly a deal to change market perception of the groups would be well received. It would create the country's biggest regional brewer with almost 2,000 pubs.

Marston, famed for its Pedigree bitter, is talking to Nomura, the Japanese bank, about securitising its tenanted pubs. It is unclear just how near the talks are to reaching

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

agreement or whether Wolves, the bigger of the two, was stirred into action by the proposed deal.

Marston's attempt to join the branded pub bandwagon has caused it some discomfort. It overpaid for the Pitcher & Piano chain, splashing out nearly £20m. Its plan to roll out the concept nationally has proved difficult to realise.

With brewing groups giving up beer production to concentrate on retailing, the beerage is in turmoil. Vaux, the Sunderland group, is abandoning brewing to run its

Swallow hotels chain and upmarket pub and has put its two breweries and 350 bottom-of-the-barrel pubs on the market. Director Frank Nicholson is attempting a buyout, but is thought to be finding it difficult to get the necessary support.

Utilities rescued Footsie. At one time it was down 744 points, but the privatised groups strengthened as the day progressed and briefly, just before the close, the index achieved a chink of blue before ending 1.6 down at 5,432.3. Supporting shares ran out of steam, with the mid cap off 60.5 at 4,874.4 and the small cap 6.6 at 2,058.8.

Severn Trent was the best-performing Footsie constituent, up 60p at 1,090p. Thames Water, 40p at 1,166p, and United Utilities, 24p at 885p, were among others in form as Credit Lyonnais said the water sector was undervalued. British Energy, National Grid and National Power also made headway.

Woolwich, the mortgage bank, featured in a mixed banking sector. The shares rose 6.5p to 366.5p, putting another touch to the sort of graph (see illustration) which excites chart followers. The graph,

some say, foreshadows corporate action.

The Scottish banks remained friendless. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 34p to 789p and Bank of Scotland 25p to 592p. The two have been

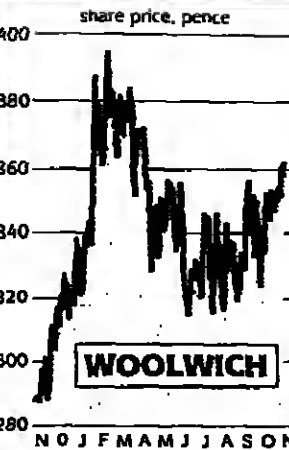
THE ELECTRONIC share dealing revolution continues. Posit, a computerised trading system, is due to be launched next Wednesday. The executive-only stockbroker matches trades twice a day and it should clinch its first deals at its morning fixing.

Posit is a joint venture between Soci t  G n rale, the French bank, and Investment Technology of the US. Posit has already achieved a significant presence in the US.

subjected to analysts' caution.

BT gained 5p to 831p, with Merrill Lynch making positive noises. Speculation is growing that the group could hand to shareholders some proceeds from the sale of its 20 per cent interest in MCI.

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



WOOLWICH

Allied Domecq was little

changed at 516.5p. After the market closed Seagram, the Canadian group, killed slender hopes of the two achieving a spirits tie-up.

Since the creation of Diageo there has been talk of Allied linking with Seagram to counter the threat of the new spirits colossus. But Seagram issued a go-it-alone statement, talking about expanding its

wine and spirit operations over the next five years.

Blacks Leisure, the sportswear retailer, remained in the takeover spotlight, gaining a further 17.5p to 271.5p. Celtic, the Glasgow football

LIMELIGHT, the bathroom and kitchen group which has had a disastrous stock market life, is thought to be meeting institutions in the next few days. The shares are 28.5p; they were 200p two years ago.

The group is vulnerable. Stephen Boler, a major shareholder, died in Africa, and his stake may be available. Mr Boler was also a big shareholder at Olex-traded football club Manchester City, up 5p at 80p.

club, rose 30p to 292.5p as a consortium including Kenny Dalglish and singer Jim Kerr threatened a bid.

Booker, the cash-and-carry chain, collapsed 54.75p to 64.25p after a profits. Two potential bidders, Somerfield and Budgens,

have already walked away from the struggling group. Iceland rose 10.5p to 226p following its home shopping move; it expects to offer a food shopping service through digital television next summer.

Retailers were ruffled by a gloomy British Retail Consortium survey. Storehouse, also under pressure from CSFS, fell 7.5p to 168p and Next 23.5p to 490p.

BICC, the cables and construction group, was little changed at 55.5p following Monday's analysts meeting. Henderson Crosthwaite put a 120p sum-of-the-parts valuation on the shares and said buy.

Porvair, the materials group, slumped 92.5p to 146.5p after warning of losses. RJB Mining fell 4.5p to 55.5p, a new low. The market is fretting about the possibility of the group encountering a miners' strike - the first since the 1980s. National Union of Mineworkers officials meet tomorrow to discuss action after failing to reach a pay and conditions deal with RJB.

SEAG TRADING: 855.6 million  
SEAG TRADES: 58,191  
GILT INDEX: 111.45 +0.60

## Full power from CWC boosts sales and profits

HALF-YEAR PROFITS from Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), the cable operator which is 53 per cent owned by Cable & Wireless, grew by 12 per cent to £73m before exceptional items in the six months to the end of September - right in the middle of analysts' expectations.

All four divisions - consumer, business, corporate, and international and partner services - generated greater revenues, and all four made profits, although exactly how much is commercially-sensitive information.

The consumer markets division increased revenues by 20 per cent and boosted its market share in both cable television and telephony, while the contribution from business markets is no longer declining. Corporate markets account for another quarter of revenues, and growth has been resumed.

But international and partner services is both the biggest and fastest-growing part of the business. The increasing number of telecom providers, the growth of the Internet and the exceptional increase in traffic by mobile operators has led to a 22 per cent rise in revenues. CWC now carries the majority of international traffic for Vodafone and is the market leader in the Internet and premium-rate sectors.

Group revenues rose by 14 per cent and operating expenses were virtually flat, which augurs well for the future. Interest charges rose by more than 50 per cent to £92m after shouldering reorganisation costs, and bank debt has been largely refinanced by a series of bond issues. The average cost of the issues is around 7 per cent, which looks expensive, but the company's future cash requirements are now fully funded.

Analysts claim CWC is still on course to make £183m in the full year and earnings of 9.5p. CWC looks certain to be a good long-term investment but the shares, which rose 15p to 478p, look fully valued in the short to medium term.

## INVESTMENT

EDITED BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

### CABLE & WIRELESS COMMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £7.10bn, share price 476p (+15p)

Trading record 1997 1998

Half year to 30 Sept

Turnover (£m) 1103 1257

Pre-tax profits (£m) 65 73

Earnings per share (p) 4.5 5.0

Dividends per share (p) NIL NIL

Revenue analysis

£m, six months ending 30 Sept

Direct Telephony

Indirect Telephony

Television

Business Markets

Corporate Markets

International Partner & Service

Share price

pence

750

700

650

600

550

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

50

0

1997 1998

Source: Datastream

Share price

pence

750

700

650

600

550

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

150

100

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1997 1998

Source: Datastream

well placed to make further progress.

On full-year forecasts of £45.5m the shares trade on a forward multiple of 11. That is only in line with the sector, where a premium to the more commodity-based players such as Express Dairies and Robert Wiseman is justified. Good value.

## Downturn test for Newsquest

NEWSQUEST, England's largest regional and local newspaper publisher, has suffered badly during the market turbulence of the past three months. Although yesterday's third-quarter profit announcement was better than expected - profits increased by 48 per cent to £14.3m - investor faith has still to be renewed. The share price is still 27 per cent below its July peak of 340p.

Because the publication of local newspapers is Newsquest's core activity, it relies on advertising for the bulk of its revenues. Most analysts believe that, if there were a significant downturn in the economy, Newsquest's earnings from recruitment ads - 20 per cent of its overall advertising revenue - would be badly hit, with its operations outside London and the South-east most affected.

Analysts are sticking to forecast profits of £55m for the full year and earnings of 22.2p per share. With the stock trading up 3p to 250p on the back of this release, the forward earnings multiple is still above 11.

Analysts will agree that there is not much fundamentally wrong with the company, and that it is undervalued in the long term. Due to the cyclical nature of its earnings, however, there is still some scepticism about short-term prospects, and the share price may have some way to slide as the economy slows.

Potential investors would be well advised to bide their time before climbing aboard.



Mike Brindle, Energi marketing manager, on PR duty with the ladies from 'The Price is Right' Mark Chilvers

## Beckitt out the picture

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

JOHN BECKITT, managing director of Norweb, was due to have his picture taken with two young ladies from ITV's *The Price is Right* this week, to help launch Energi Freedom Pounds, a range of discount holidays for gas and electricity customers.

"Suitably attired in attractive swimwear, Emma Steadman and Kimberley Cowell will take to their poolside sun loungers," trilled the press blurb. Except that when it came to it, Mr Beckitt bashfully refused to be pictured with the girls. Instead Mike Brindle, marketing manager for Energi, had to perform the honours.

BRIAN SOUTER started the incestuous world of business journalism yesterday by recruiting the deputy editor of the *Scottishman*, Robbie Ballantyne, to be Stagecoach's first-ever in-house press spokesman.

Mr Ballantyne will now have to take the train north from Edinburgh to Perth, gateway to the Highlands, to work in Stagecoach's tiny headquarters, situated over a travel agents.

The pugacious Mr Ballantyne has spent nearly 25 of his 45 years in business journalism, notably at *The Times*, where he was business editor and business news editor.

Mr Souter has also pinched Alistair Smith from East of Scotland Water to be head of information technology at Stagecoach. He expects to recruit a head of human resources soon.

According to a recently published history of the company, Stagecoach, by Christian Woolman, himself a former transport correspondent with *The Independent*, Mr Souter could do with a spin doctor.

Mr Woolman recounts how Mr Souter was very surprised to learn in the spring of 1997 that South West Trains had received 40,000 complaints a year. He told journalists: "In the bus business if they didn't like what we were doing they'd throw a

brick through the bus garage window." Getting into his stride, Mr Souter added: "Are they complaining in work time?"

GEC HAS lured Sir Charles Masfield from the corridors of Whitehall to the main board as an executive director and vice-chairman responsible for the group's marketing activity. He will report directly to the chief executive, Lord Simpson.

Sir Charles has been head of Defence Export Services at the Ministry of Defence since September 1994. He will be replaced there by Tony Edwards, chairman of TI Group's aerospace interests, who stepped down from TI this week.

Previously Sir Charles was the commercial director at Airbus Industrie, in charge of worldwide marketing, sales and sales financing of all Airbus products. He started his career at British Aerospace.

Sir Geoffrey Pattie is also joining GEC as group communications director.

DO WE detect the fell hand of Simon Lewis, recently appointed spokesman for Buckingham Palace, in the decision

to send Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of City institutions next Wednesday in order to "get to know more about the financial services industry"?

Certainly not, Mr Lewis insists. The man seconded from his £150,000-a-year PR job at Centrica to the Palace says the tour was arranged long before he arrived.

The couple will start their one-day tour at the Financial Services Authority in Canary Wharf. Whether they will get there by joining the sweaty, frustrated masses on the delay-prone Docklands Light Railway has not been announced.

Then it's back to the Square Mile to meet the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene, at Bankers Trust. The Queen will then visit Merrill Lynch and Electra, while the Duke deals with Lloyds TSB and the Stock Exchange.

After lunch, Eddie George will show them around the Bank of England and introduce them to members of the Monetary Policy Committee. Perhaps they can do us all a favour and send the interest-rate hawks to the Tower.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000			0.6037	0.6046	0.6059
Australia	2.6807	2.6573	2.6527	1.6903	1.6907	1.6913
Austria	13.7607	13.7407	13.7207	1.8803	1.8807	1.8813
Belgium	37.7907	37.7707	37.7507	11.8707	11.8707	11.8707
Canada	2.5007	2.4907	2.4807	34.8407	34.8407	34.8407
Denmark	10.6107	10.6007	10.5907	34.7907	34.7907	34.7907
ECU	1.4207	1.4107	1.4007	6.4107	6.4107	6.4107
Finland	8.5607	8.5507	8.5407	6.4107	6.4107	6.4107
France	6.5607	6.5507	6.5407	1.1607	1.1607	1.1607
Germany	2.7907	2.7807	2.7707	1.6807	1.6807	1.6807
Greece	471.1307	471.1207	471.1107	7.7307	7.7307	7.7307
Hong Kong	12.8107	12.8007	12.7907	7.7307	7.7307	7.7307
India	17.2407	17.2307	17.2207	1.4707	1.4707	1.4707
Indonesia	2768.8007	2768.7907	2768.7807	1.6807	1.6807	1.6807
Japan	103.5107	103.5007	103.4907	1.2207	1.2207	1.2207
Malaysia	6.2807	6.2707	6.2607	3.7907	3.7907	3.7907
Mexico	16.5907	16.5807	16.5707	1.9007	1.9007	1.9007
Netherlands	3.1507	3.1407	3.1307	1.8907	1.8907	1.8907
New Zealand	1.3707	1.3607	1.3507	1.8907	1.8907	1.8907
Norway	12.4607	12.4507	12.4407	1.8907	1.8907	1.8907
Portugal	205.7107	205.7007	205.6907	1.8907	1.8907	1.8907
South Africa	6.2107	6.2007	6.1907	3.7507	3.7507	3.7507
Singapore	2.7407	2.7307	2.7207	5.9207	5.9207	5.9207
Spain	166.3407	166.3307	166.3207	5.9207	5.9207	5.9207
Sweden	13.2007	13.1907	13.1807	1.3807	1.3807	1.3807
Switzerland	2.0072	2.0072	2.0072	1.0000		
US	1.6504					

### OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6554	1.0000	Oman	0.6378	0.3850
Brazil	1.9726	1.1909	Pakistan	85.222	51.450
China	13.711	8.2778	Philippines	75.084	40.500
Czech Rep	48.270	28.745	Poland	5.8993	3.4375
Egypt	5.6551	3.4141	Qatar	6.0289	3.8388
Ghana	3859.4	2330.0	Russia	1.815	1560.0
Hong Kong	359.12	216.81	South Korea	54.274	1317.0
India	70.024	82.50	Taiwan	32.766	17.050
Indonesia	13665.3	82.50	Thailand	494447	292470
Kenya	0.5018	0.5030	Ukraine	6.0840	3.6731
Nigeria	142.04	85.750	UAE		

### INTEREST RATES

UK	Germany	US	Japan	0.50%
Base	6.75%	Discount	8.00%	Discount
France	4.50%	Prime	4.75%	Discount
Intervention	3.30%	Fed Funds	4.94%	Discount
Italy	11.25%	10-1 Repo	3.50%	Discount
Discount	4.00%	Spain	3.50%	Discount
Netherlands	Denmark	Sweden	Discount	1.00%
Swap/Avr	3.30%	Repo/Avr	3.85%	3.38%

### BOND YIELDS

Country	3mth	6mth	1yr	2yr	5yr	10yr
Australia	4.78	0.02	4.63	-0.03	4.57	-0.05
Belgium	3.54	0.00	3.47	0.00	3.50	-0.08
Canada	4.83	-0.01	4.53	0.00	4.80	-0.01
France	0.00	0.00	3.39	0.01	3.47	0.01
Germany	3.62	0.00	3.53	0.00	3.42	0.00
Italy	4.13	-0.12	3.73	-0.01	3.72	-0.02
Japan	0.01	0.00	0.75	-0.01	0.75	-0.01
Netherlands	3.37	0.00	3.44	0.00	3.43	-0.12
Spain	3.36	-0.03	3.35	0.02	3.32	0.03
Sweden	3.89	0.00	3.92	0.01	3.99	-0.01
Switzerland	1.64	0.01	1.74	0.01	1.83	0.02
UK	6.35	0.00	6.44	0.00	6.35	-0.05
US	4.44		4.32		4.52	

### MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year



## SPORT

Cricket: The West Indies captain has demonstrated that a player with television pulling power can call the tune

## Lara revels in his power and influence

THREE years ago, when Brian Lara sought the backing of his fellow West Indies players, the rebuff so shattered him it almost brought a premature end to his career.

Fed up with internal dissension on the 1996 tour of England, Lara squarely blamed the captain, Richie Richardson. At the team meeting post-mortem of the defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, in which he scored the first of his three hundreds for the series, Lara told Richardson that most of the other players felt the same way, too.

When Richardson, a quiet, mild-mannered man, responded, in the words of the leaked report by the manager, Wes Hall, that he was not prepared to "bow to any egotistical people who have agendas and ambitions", Lara looked around him to the sound of silence. According to Hall, he "jumped up and stormed out of the meeting, declaring 'I resign'". He later told Hall: "Cricket is ruining my life."

Only the coaxing of then West Indies Cricket Board president, Peter Short, got him back into the fold after four days' absence without leave, but he was fined 10 per cent of his tour fee for leaving the team all the same.

Now fast forward to last weekend. Lara and nine of his present colleagues, some of whom were at the fateful Manchester meeting, are

BY TONY COZIER

ensconced at Heathrow's Excel Hotel, refusing to travel to Johannesburg as scheduled for a tour of special cricket and special significance until their Board agrees to meet with them to review fees and conditions.

Appointed captain in January after a lengthy, often turbulent, wait, Lara had just been sacked - along with his vice-captain, Carl Hooper - by a Board that had lost patience with the

*They knew that if they held firm the Board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo*

several incidents that had brought him fines, reprimands and warnings from the disciplinary committee.

The career of the most celebrated, complex and controversial cricketer of his time, holder of the world record Test and first-class scores, was in the balance. It was not the first time.

The Board, angered by the defiance of Lara and Hooper in disre-

garding the instructions of the Tour manager, Clive Lloyd, to fly to South Africa straight from Dhaka, where they had led the side in the Wills International Cup, felt fully justified in taking its action. It summoned Lara to Antigua to attend a hastily arranged special meeting but, although their tickets were provided, the pair stayed put at Heathrow. It was a further aggravation.

Although the passionate public, to whom the players are heroes, swamped radio call-in shows with demands for the recall of Lara and Hooper, the Board had influential support. Even the sports minister in Lara's home island of Trinidad said he should be penalised for his "disobedience". It was tantamount to standing up in Havana's Square of the Revolution with a loudspeaker and agitating for the overthrow of Fidel Castro.

This time the Board, and those who backed it, counted without the support Lara would receive from those around him - and more especially, Courtney Walsh. The former captain, as much revered in the Caribbean as at his adopted Gloucestershire, had been deposed by the Board in Lara's favour in a messy transfer of power. Only a year earlier, the two were at loggerheads to such an extent that Walsh, as captain of Jamaica, pointedly chose not to toss up with Lara for a match against Trinidad and Tobago. He sent his vice-captain instead who, the talk has it, informed Lara that "the king is on the throne".

Now Walsh is the president of the newly consolidated West Indies Players' Association with Lara as his deputy and their board - and that of the other players - is as strong as in any well-organised labour union.

The traditional platitude that no sportsman, however great, is indispensable has been rendered obsolete by the financial control exerted by the television networks and sponsors. Consequently, the players are confident of themselves and they knew that if they held firm, the board would have to eat humble pie and revert to the status quo.

The reality was clearly spelt out by Edward Griffiths, the head of South African Broadcasting Corporation sport, which is televising the series. "We won't put up with anything but a full strength team," he said. "We owe it to our sponsors, viewers and advertisers."

With the political significance emphasised by a letter to the players from Nelson Mandela himself, hand delivered by the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Dr All Bacher, in London, the die had been cast.

Within hours, the Board had dispatched one of its most identifiable and popular members, Joel Garner, the giant fast bowler of the 1980s, and the manager, Lloyd, to London to initiate negotiations. The players politely told them that only the Board president, Pat Rousseau, the tough-talking Jamaican attorney who took up the post in 1996, would do.

In quick time, Rousseau and a more high-powered delegation was on its way and, with the limp explanation that it was merely a "misunderstanding" that had kept South



Brian Lara has extended his dominance from the crease to the whole organisation of cricket in the West Indies

Allsport

## Tourists turn to diplomacy

BRIAN LARA, the reinstated captain of the troubled West Indies team, apologised after arriving in Johannesburg yesterday for missing the first match of their historic South African tour because of a pay dispute.

However, Lara refused to discuss the settlement reached in London on Monday that persuaded them to travel to South Africa. The matter was "totally confidential," he said. "The team is here to win the Test series and the whole team, apart from Jimmy Adams, is fit," Lara added. Adams, it transpired, had cut a finger on his right hand with a bread knife while trying to slice a bread roll on the flight from London.

The team arrived yesterday morning in South Africa without the fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who apparently arrived late at Heathrow airport for their flight. The rest of the squad left London on Monday evening after a settlement ended the revolt over pay. Their opening match is scheduled for today in Soweto, against a Gauteng provincial XI. The first Test begins on 26 November in Johannesburg.

The late arrival caused the team to miss yesterday's exhibition match in Randjesfontein, near Johannesburg. Lara said the team wanted to apologise. "They're pretty sorry at this time for any offence," he said.

"We also want to thank President Mandela for the letter he sent to us in London during the discussions. Everyone on the team respects

President Mandela tremendously, and the gesture was deeply appreciated."

Mandela had urged that the cricketers to resolve their differences - the president sees sport as a means of achieving racial unity. This tour is the first by the West Indies since the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

Before the settlement was agreed, the West Indies Cricket Board agreed to recognise the role of the players' union, review player insurance coverage and the grievance and disciplinary code, and work toward a joint marketing programme that would allow players a share in revenue.

The West Indies tour manager, Clive Lloyd, described the dispute as a "little hull in their careers," referring to Lara and Carl Hooper, the vice-captain who, along with Lara, was sacked and then reinstated. "But they are professional people and know what's expected of them," Lloyd added.

The former South African wicket-keeper Dave Richardson, who now represents the 21 players contracted to the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said that the row could prompt the formation of an international body aimed at looking after players' interests.

"I don't think we can go as far as to have standardised contracts for tours," Richardson said, "but guidelines and basic necessities ought to be established."

## Irwin grabs the money but not the credit

The three-times US Open champion has earned more on the senior circuit than Tiger Woods and David Duval have picked up elsewhere yet few acknowledge his feat. By Andy Farrell

HERE IS a question Colin Montgomerie or Lee Westwood might want to get on about: should they be appearing on "A Question of Sport"? Who holds the record for the biggest earnings on a single tour in a single season? Tiger Woods? David Duval, perhaps? Sorry. The answer is Hale Irwin.

While you are trying to work that one out, here is a supplementary: Whose record did he overtake? Greg Norman, perhaps. No, in fact it was his own.

For the last two seasons Irwin, who plays on the US Senior Tour, has been the biggest money winner on any single circuit. Last year he won \$2.3m (£1.4m) while Woods led the regular tour with \$2.1m. Last Sunday, Irwin won the Senior Tour Championship to top the list again with \$2.9m compared to Duval's \$2.6m.

The strength in depth, of course, is nothing compared to the regular

circuit, where 26 players passed \$1m this season. But the fact that 11 seniors also broke through the seven-figure barrier shows what a remarkable sport golf is when a bunch of 50-year-olds can earn similar winnings to those in their prime.

You would think they would get fed up with all the travelling and the constant grind of tour life but, with over 40 tournaments worth over \$40m, who is complaining. As Julius Boros asked: how do you retire when you have spent all your life playing golf and fishing? And don't bother with the Viagra, there have been creche facilities on the Senior tour for years.

Irwin does not just play on the

tour, he dominates it. His latest win was his 20th in four years. He won nine times in 1997 and seven times this season, including the PGA Seniors' Championship and the US Senior Open. He led the tour in putting, greens in regulation, birdies per round and lowered the stroke average record to 68.59.

But who exactly is Irwin beating? His nearest challenger is Gil Morgan, who has won six times in each of the last two seasons and finished second on the money list with over \$2m each time. Last Sunday, Morgan, the defending champion, went into the final round with a one-stroke lead but Irwin shot a 65 to win by five. With no one else near

enough to challenge the top two it could be a great rivalry. But the outside world is showing little evidence that it cares very much. What Irwin and Morgan lack is the one thing the Golden Oldies circuit was founded on: charisma.

Irwin, at least, was a major champion. But he will be remembered for the admired but hardly thrilling achievement of hitting enough fairways and greens to win three US Opens in three different decades. Morgan won seven times in his regular career but the most exciting line in his biography is that he is a non-practising optometrist.

Arnold Palmer was the catalyst for the Senior tour in the early 80s.

Arnie's Army still had eyes for only one man, he just needed a different playground. The tour reached its zenith earlier in this decade when Lee Trevino - who won a record 27 times before the "round bellies" started to fatten - Jack Nicklaus and Ray Floyd arrived on the circuit.

Nicklaus never wanted to be seen playing full time on a ceremonial circuit but, ironically, his desire to perform at the highest level helped move the Senior tour away from that image towards a highly competitive arena. It is now one where the lifespan of a senior in terms of regularly contending has shrunk to under five years.

Also falling, however, are the television ratings. "Our product is fairly bland. We all realise there's a little bit of a lull right now," one tournament director told an American magazine last year - after only one season of the Irwin-Morgan show. "Irwin and Morgan are not real

exciting to watch," said Johnny Miller. "They don't relate to the galleries like the old superstars. It's one down from having Trevino battling Nicklaus, that's for sure."

Miller, the former British and US Open champion, has only been persuaded to come down from his commentary tower for a couple of Senior events and immediately retreated when he scattered putts all over the place. The next big names to join the circuit - and that is not definite since they have already cashed in on the regular tour - are Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Lanny Wadkins.

"I will play the senior tour but I'm not sure how much," said Watson. "It might be more fun over there, seeing a lot of old friends and less pressure in a way. But what Jack Nicklaus told me is absolutely true: 'Tom, these guys can really play'. It's no place to go thinking of making a half-hearted effort."



Irwin: Lacking charisma

Watson will be the first of the trio to arrive but not until next September. That gives Irwin another season to clean up. "I have a lot of confidence and I'm putting well," he said. "There's no sign of weakness in my game unless I let it happen. Somewhere along the line the streak will slow down a bit. But right now, I don't intend to let it happen."

Gap could

Black mark for



# Record stand sees England safe

CRICKET

BY MYLES HODGSON  
in Adelaide

England 187 & 457-4  
South Australia 325  
Match drawn

GRAHAM THORPE and Mark Ramprakash shared a record partnership against South Australia yesterday to give England an important boost as they enter the final stages of the Ashes build-up.

The undefeated 377-run fifth wicket partnership between the pair saved England from a potentially damaging defeat before they travel to Cairns for their final warm-up match against Queensland. It was the highest first-class stand for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia.

As delighted as both players were at entering cricket's record books by eclipsing the 368-run partnership by C A G Russell and Wilfred Rhodes against the same opponents in Adelaide back in 1920-21, their satisfaction at giving England a badly needed stimulus after a difficult opening three weeks was even greater.

Resuming just 11 runs ahead on 149 for 4, the pair successfully negotiated difficult spells from the fast bowlers Jason Gillespie and Mark Hartery at the start of the day - and again when the new ball was taken after just 16 overs. They displayed concentration, determination and discipline - three factors which were all absent during England's first innings total of 187.

After withstanding the anxious early problems, including a late scare with Thorpe reporting ill at the ground, having contracted an overnight stomach bug, the pair grew in confidence and, by the time bad light halted play 40 minutes after tea, the debutant spinners Ewan Arnold and Andrew Crook had begun to resemble little more than declaration bowlers.

Pulling every delivery which was short of a length and driving the great number of over-pitched balls, they accelerated through the respective milestones at an alarming rate. Thorpe finished unbeaten on a career-best first-class score of 223, while Ramprakash had advanced to 140 to guide England to a commanding 457 for 4 by the premature close.



England's Graham Thorpe (left) and Mark Ramprakash celebrate in Adelaide yesterday after achieving their record first-class stand of 377

The pair added 194 runs in 34 overs during the afternoon session alone and, overall, batted for 372 minutes together and faced 693 deliveries. Afterwards Ramprakash said: "The local press have been very negative about our cricket in general ever since we touched down and it's nice to prove a point today. We have not played well in this game and we have been behind the eight ball for three days. "We showed we are hard to beat and we are not going to roll over. It's nice to prove that point," Ramprakash added. "Hopefully we can start to improve on our performances and the victories will come." Ramprakash's innings,

which was far more cautious than Thorpe's, lasted 373 minutes and included 18 boundaries. It will have gone some way towards tipping the balance in his favour, should the England selectors have to choose between him and John Crawley for the last of six

bating places in the first Test. "I came in when we were in trouble during the first innings and we were fighting to save the game today, so it's difficult to go out and play your shots," he said. "I apply myself to the situation I find myself in, and we had to fight hard for a draw."

"We only became aware of the record," Ramprakash added, "when Ben Hollis came out with some gloves and told us to keep going because there were only another 10 to get."

Thorpe is just happy to be on the tour after undergoing a tortuous time rehabilitating from the back injury which ruled him out for the second half of last summer. "It's always in the back of your mind that you might miss the tour when you pick up an injury like that," he admitted, after hitting four sixes and 23 other boundaries in his 380-minute marathon.

"It's probably the best I've played since I had the operation. I've not spent that much time out in the middle since it was done and it was pleasing to stay out there. "You can build yourself up as much as you like - but you need runs under your belt especially on tour when you are only going to play about eight games," Thorpe added.

## Gilchrist and Ponting in power play

A RECORD PARTNERSHIP of 193 between Adam Gilchrist, who made 103, and Ricky Ponting (124 not out) powered Australia to a 3-0 sweep of the one-day series against Pakistan yesterday to add to their 1-0 Test triumph. Set a target of 316 by a Pak-

istan team whose 315 for 8 was their highest one-day score against Australia, the visitors won by six wickets with seven balls to spare in Lahore. Gilchrist, the 27-year-old left-hander from Western Australia, notched his second one-day hundred in his 39th game while

Tasmania's Ponting was man of the match with his fifth century in 59 matches. The partnership was the highest for any wicket between Australia and Pakistan, surpassing the 173 for the fourth wicket between Dean Jones and Steve Waugh at Perth in 1987.

## Henman set for Olympia doubles

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE

TIM HENMAN, still battling to win a place at the ATP Championship at Hanover later this month, will make a rare appearance in London on 3 December, when he plays in an exhibition doubles match at Olympia. The British No 1 will partner the Iranian Mansour Bahrami against a pair still to be named.

Last year, when the Honda Challenge was held at the Albert Hall, Henman, with his coach David Felgate, won a special doubles event by beating the former British No 1 Jeremy Bates and the 42-year-old Bahrami, a trick-shot specialist, in the final.

The event will be staged from 3 to 6 December and the senior singles has an eight-man field, containing two groups of four, with the most eagerly awaited match probably between John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg on 5 December.

If Henman can beat Wayne Ferreira to earn a place in the third round of the Stockholm Open he will gain automatic entry into the ATP event in Hanover.

The sixth seed, Cedric Pioline, was given a tough opening match by the 17-year-old Swede Andreas Vinciguerra in the Stockholm Open yesterday. Vinciguerra, No 3 in the junior rankings, forced the Frenchman to play his best until his inexperience told and he lost 6-3 7-5. The American Todd Martin demolished a qualifier, Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland, 6-1, 6-3, in another first-round match.

## Rolex call time on Cork plan

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

AN OFFER by the Royal Cork Yacht Club to host the Commodore's Cup in the year 2000 has been squashed by the refusal of the sponsor, Rolex, to move from Cowes and the Solent. "We think we could stage a first rate Commodore's Cup ahead of Ford Cork Week in early July and attract up to 15 teams," Royal Cork spokesman Donald McClement said.

But David Minors, of the organising Royal Ocean Racing Club, said the decision to stay on the south coast of England had been a joint one. "We took a back seat in this," he said. "If Rolex had wanted to move to Cork we could live with that, we would not throw a wobbly. Cork is a lovely place." But he said that any fundamental change in the format of the event would have to be agreed with the sponsors. "It was a very open discussion. The Royal Cork spoke direct to Rolex and we had no problem with that. To all intents and purposes, however, this proposal is a dead duck."

He was upbeat about the prospects for next year's Admiral's Cup and the need to attract more than the seven three-boat national teams which took part in 1997. "I think we will achieve our target of 10 to 13 overall," said Minors.

## Gap could widen at Watford

THIS, BY Andy Goodway's admission, is the sort of week when time can hang heavily on your hands.

The second-half collapse at Bolton last Saturday means that the Test series against New Zealand is lost. All that remains is to try to save some face at Watford this weekend. "Write what you want," the Great Britain coach said yesterday, amiably enough. "It's all irrelevant."

The joke at the gathering in Leeds before the squad headed south yesterday was that the watches with which they were presented by Tissot, the associate sponsors for the series, were special models. They get to 40 minutes and they stop.

Working out why his team stopped and then fell apart at that stage of the second Test, with springs and cogs flying everywhere, has been Goodway's first task this week.

"It's a lot harder to analyse than you imagine, because of

Great Britain are aiming to avoid a whitewash after the drubbing last week. But how? By Dave Hadfield

the way we took the game on in the first half," he said. "Then we went away from what we were supposed to do. We went away from what we should do for 10 minutes and that's why we got caught out of position and out of shape."

Isolating a lost ball here, a fuffed kick there on the video is one thing. Explaining the extent of Britain's capitulation after those mistakes is something else again.

"People don't want excuses, but excuses are the answers to why it went wrong," he said. "It's not that we haven't prepared well, it's that the players aren't used to this level of competition."

"It's not that we're not good enough - we're not experienced enough at this kind of

football, and when we go behind it shows." Goodway argues that Super League, for all its apparent improvement this year, has not honed his squad to compete with players who are meeting the heavier demands of Australia's National Rugby League every week.

"We don't realise it until we have a World Club Championship or a Test series. Everyone thinks that, because we put a red, white and blue shirt on, it's automatically a level playing field and it's just not like that."

Goodway's answer to this is for Britain to have both more international rugby and more preparation time, although how this is compatible with the proposed 30-game Super League

season next year is not clear. A more immediate concern is avoiding the embarrassment of a Kiwi clean sweep on Saturday.

"Nobody likes to get beaten - especially me. The weight of expectation is on my shoulders. We'll do our damndest to avoid a 3-0 whitewash. None of the players wants to be involved in a team that loses a home series 3-0."

Not that Goodway fears that his job could be under pressure. He has a vote of confidence from the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, that, unlike most, means what it says, although Goodway himself feels that such a pronouncement should not even be necessary.

"We are only eight months down the line, after international football has taken several backward steps."

It is, he says, a long job, but the public wants some indication this weekend that he is at least on the right track. Like a shot-down pilot, Great Britain



Goodway: In for long run

have little choice but to get up there again almost immediately.

A good thing, then, to have that quick opportunity to exorcise the demons from that second half at the Reebok Stadium?

Goodway checks his watch. "It might be an opportunity to play worse," he says. "We could play 80 minutes like that."

We could, but for the sake of credibility all round, he knows we had better not.

## Kiwis promise to twist the knife

GREAT BRITAIN'S injury problems for the Test against New Zealand they must win to avoid the ignominy of a whitewash have worsened with the news that Iestyn Harris is unlikely to be fit, writes Dave Hadfield.

Harris, promoted to start at stand-off in the Test at Bolton on Saturday that saw the Kiwis clinch the series, strained a groin and is regarded as very doubtful for Watford this Saturday. His absence could give St Helens' Sean Long a chance to make his mark on the series.

Despite advance claims that he was fit to play at Bolton, Britain are still likely to be without Adrian Morley, while Paul Newlove is also far from being a certain starter.

And, according to the Kiwis' stand-off, Robbie Paul, Britain can forget about the possibility of them going easy now that the series is won. "We want to win the series three-nil and be remembered as the best Kiwi

side of all time," he said. The New Zealand coach, Frank Endacott, has indicated that he might use some of the fringe players who have not been involved in the series so far.

"But there are some very good young players with us and we would not lose anything by bringing them in," he said. His British counterpart, Andy Goodway, has been reassured that his job is not in danger, despite the scale of the defeat at Bolton, when his side let in 28 points without reply in the second half.

"Good coaches don't become bad coaches because of one Test series defeat," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe. "They have to be given time to grow into the job."

Goodway has a contract taking him to 2001 and an administration that has stressed the value of continuity is not likely to make any knee-jerk reaction.

## Black mark for myth peddling

Sir: Comments about Polynesians in All Black rugby made within the recent article by Chris Hewett perpetuate the tiresome myth of a rapacious NZRFU roaming about the Pacific Islands, Samoa in particular looking to recruit strapping great specimens of humanity for the All Blacks, thereby depriving the Pacific Islands sides of their best talent. The only non-New Zealand-born recent All Black is Joel Vidiri, the ex-Fijian international.

Lomu, the Bachop brothers, Bunce, Tuigamala, Brown, Ieremia, Kronfeld, Cullen, Tonu, Maka are all New Zealand born and raised with their rugged talent developed 100 per cent by the NZRFU. In fact, any raiding is coming from the

opposite direction with a popular Samoan side (coached by that All Black great, Brian Williams) now providing an increasingly attractive alternative path to competitive international rugby for many New Zealand born-and-raised and NZRFU-developed laddies for whom in many cases the islands of their ancestors are nothing more than a place for a nice holiday.

Given our miserable international season we could have done with Leapepe, Leota etc. Now about those Nigerians, Adebayo, Hartman, Uboagu... Just think how well a team from

this African state could have performed at the last couple of World Cups if England hadn't poached them...? ANDREW P NICHOLS Christchurch, NZ

## F1 driving back to front

Sir: In reply to the point raised (28 October) about standardising the F1 cars to the same spec. In principle this is a good plan, stopping drivers blaming their cars' performance instead of their own (poor) workman blaming tools and all that. However, this would inhibit the drive

to explore technological advances, which in turn can be passed down to the retail market. A fairer system would be to start the cars in reverse order to the previous season's finishing points, thus forcing the superior drivers to start at the back of the grid. JAMES WINGRAVE Bromley, Kent

## Prolonging the Hoddle twaddle

Sir: The FA's decision to renew Glenn Hoddle's contract is as outrageous as it is illogical. Hoddle's

stewardship has been one of unmitigated disaster. It should never be forgotten that Hoddle said Owen was not a natural goalscorer. His persistence with players such as Batty, Anderton and Southgate confirms he is in the kindergarten class as a manager. JOHN O'SHEA Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

## Dignity of the noble creatures

Sir: Your correspondent, E W Hughes, (Letters, 28 October) says: "Football clubs in their desperate

determination to avoid defeat by preventing the other side playing, are murdering wild animals." This is a slur upon noble creatures, who at least have dignity. P J HILL Liverpool

## What chance in the Tests?

Sir: In your report from Perth of England's performance on the last day of the match against Western Australia, I am sorry to say Justin Langer's comments sum up the situation. In fact it could be worse. Were we

getting in some practice on how to bat out the last day to save the game?

We were not "deprived" of Atherton and Stewart before the game - we sent a squad of our best players on the tour. If we are that worried about Western Australia, God help us when the Tests start. DAVID SCAMMEL, Bournemouth, Dorset

## Put your flag down, linesman

Sir: Can I ask a stupid question? What is the offside rule designed to do

for football? I ask this as at the moment it seems to spoil the game in a number of ways, for example, goals being disallowed, abuse being hurled at linesmen, etc. It is time we looked at a better way of achieving the aims the offside law was designed for without all the negative features of the offside law. I can see very little merit in the offside law and think it should be abolished, with perhaps the only restriction that you can only be offside from balls played from your own half. I believe this would be sufficient to eliminate goal hangers waiting for long balls played from their own half.

The result of that would be more goals and an end to defences playing the offside trap, which is one of the more boring aspects of the game. RAKESH CHHABRA London

## SPORTS LETTERS

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# High rollers fall on hard times

AS USUAL the likeable direct Roy Hodgson did not duck the question. "No one involved with Blackburn Rovers would try to pretend that our start to the season has been anything short of disappointing," he said. No one did because these words were spoken in mid-September – before the real slump began.

Since then, Rovers have gone from disappointing to worse, winning one of their last nine League matches while slipping into the relegation places. The future does not look rosy either, as away matches against Newcastle, Manchester United and Liverpool do not normally launch revivals. By tonight they could be out of the Worthington Cup; by December they could be bottom of the Premiership.

It is an abhorrent prospect for the champions of 1995 and one made more grim by contrast. Spin back a year and Rovers were third in the Premiership, had walloped Sheffield Wednesday 7-2 and Aston Villa 4-0 and had lost only once, unhelpfully 4-3 to Leeds. On Remembrance Day the Blackburn public can remember only too well the giddy sense of excitement that had walked into Ewood Park alongside Hodgson as he became manager in June 1997 in succession to Ray Harford.

They prefer to forget 1998

Blackburn's free-fall from Premiership contenders to a depleted, dispirited side has raised the first doubts about their manager, Roy Hodgson. By Guy Hodgson

altogether. Just seven wins and 26 points have been collected in 11 months of toil and frequent tears and the team looks dispirited to the point where you can almost see the self-belief dripping from their blue and white shirts.

On Saturday if the nadir was not reached then Blackburn moved into the neighbourhood with a 2-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers Coventry City. This time it was the performance as well as the result that looked ugly and isolated boing broke out as the team left the field.

"I've no quarrel with the result," Hodgson said afterwards. "I thought it was a very, very good Coventry side and they prevented us from playing. When you play against a good side and they play very well it always makes your side look poor." No one disputed the last sentiment but Coventry a very good side? Gordon Strachan's team, it ought to be noted, had won only twice before they arrived at Ewood Park and if they deserve superlatives how do you evaluate Aston Villa and Arsenal? It is in those terms that, not so long ago, Blackburn were being referred.

The local paper, the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, found the standard lamentable. "There were questions to be asked after this shoddy performance which wasn't down to a few individuals performing badly," its match report read. "It was as a team they dismally failed to function."

What has gone wrong? The most obvious explanation is injury. On Saturday eight players and an entire midfield – Sebastian Perez, Gary Flitcroft, Billy McKinlay and Jason Wilcox – was missing while Rovers' best player, Kevin Gallacher, has played only once since 9 September. Colin Hendry's unexpected £4m

move to Rangers has left a gaping hole in the defence. "It gave us real headaches," Hodgson said. "Not only was it totally unexpected and out of our making, it was also at a critical time in our build-up to the new season." You could argue that Blackburn could have done more to keep their captain but he was intent on going to Glasgow and to stop him would have been to keep a discontented player. An unhappy Hendry might have been a depleted one.

Yet Hodgson is regarded so highly Germany gave him serious consideration as coach for their national team and England would be looking

up his phone number if anything. Eileen Drewery forbid, happened to Glenn Hoddle. Even this week there have been reports Internazionale are interested in taking him back to Milan where he took the team to the Uefa Cup final 18 months ago. With these credentials Blackburn ought to be beating the likes of Coventry, bolts from the blue excepted, even in a depleted state.

Which brings attention to Hodgson's moves to strengthen his squad, a policy that has had more failures than successes. Martin Dahlin, Anders Andersson and Patrick Valery have departed while barely leaving a mark and none of the players brought since last season has flourished yet.

Perez (£2m) and Jim Corbett (£525,000) have been injured and have ails but Kevin Davies' performances since his £7.25m transfer have not justified his fee and he has been dropped twice. A mystery virus had a debilitating effect on the former Chesterfield and Southampton striker but his chief ailment now is confidence. In 11 matches so far this season, he has yet to score.

Davies is young, 21, and is probably a goal away from rehabilitation, but the signing of Christian Dailly has caused wholesale bemusement among supporters. A £5m-plus fee appeared expensive at the time but the cost seems astronomical given that he has yet to establish a regular position in the side.

Instead of dropping into the void left by Hendry, he has played at full-back, winger and central midfielder and the job of replacing the rock of Scotland has fallen to a free transfer, Darren Peacock. "Why did Hodgson buy Christian Dailly for £5.35m from Derby?" The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* asked. "Which position is he intended to fill?"

Hendry's move has also had minds wondering about undercurrents of unrest. He had spent nine seasons in two spells at the club and appeared as much a part of Blackburn's structure as the Jack Walker Stand. His eagerness to join Rangers was odd and so was the disharmony that broke out on the day before Rovers' Uefa Cup tie against Olympique Lyonnais. Hodgson and his captain, Tim Sherwood, should have been concentrating on their French opponents, instead there was a public disagreement about the player's agent, Eric Hall, contriving a transfer to Tottenham.



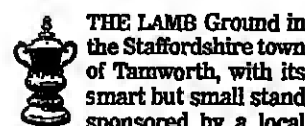
Hodgson: 11 mouths of toil

Morale is fine if you take the statements of the players at face value, but the evidence on the pitch is not convincing. On Saturday the team looked anything but happy.

Hodgson, successful with Malmö, Neuchâtel Xamax, Switzerland and Inter, concedes he has to go back to his time at Bristol City 16 years ago to remember a bleaker time. "That's football," he said. "One day you are reading you could be coach of Germany or England, the next you're fighting for your life. What can you do? Keep believing in yourself. You don't lose everything overnight, as a team or a manager."

Blackburn have to recapture what is missing and quickly. As Hodgson said on Saturday: "We need to start winning yesterday."

## Hendrie senses new Cup glory with Tamworth



THE LAMB Ground in the Staffordshire town of Tamworth, with its smart but small stand sponsored by a local garage, compares with

Wembley stadium like the nearby newsagent's with Harrod's. Yet both venues hold rich promise for the footballing Hendries.

Lee Hendrie, the 21-year-old Aston Villa midfielder, could make his England debut beneath the twin towers next week if, as the Villa hierarchy anticipate, he is named in the squad to face the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, his father Paul – who is so Scottish that his first club was Kirkcaldy Rob Roy – has a double date with FA Cup glory.

On Friday night, Hendrie Sr will be Halifax Town's guest of honour as they launch the first round at Manchester City. In 1980, it was his goal that secured a famous win for a humdrum Fourth Division outfit over Malcolm Allison's expensive City side from the top section.

The next day, while Lee strives to help the Premiership leaders to success at Southampton, Paul will be back in his role as Tamworth manager. His task is to guide the Lambs, 12th in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, to a home victory against Exeter City.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that Hendrie Jr is the first in the family to mix in the highest company. Paul, now 44, started out with Kenny Dalglish at Celtic under Jock Stein. He also played in the old First Division, supplying crosses for Trevor Francis and Bob Latchford as a teenage winger for Birmingham City.

After taking the "massive gamble" of joining Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League at the same age his son is now, he came up against Pele, Best, Beckenbauer and Eusebio. Hendrie cherishes the experience but concedes that he missed out on an important part of his development as a player.

"It was a fantastic time for me," he recalls. "In half an hour

The Scottish father of an English midfielder talent is preparing to relive his finest moment. By Phil Shaw

you could be in the mountains or on the beach. But I probably didn't make the most of my ability because the standards weren't as good in the States."

The temptation to move might not have been so strong if Birmingham had won the FA Cup in 1975. Hendrie appeared in their semi-final replay against Fulham – at Maine Road, coincidentally – and takes up the story with a barren contest entering the last seconds of extra time.

"They'd just said on the tannoy that the second replay would be at Highbury when Fulham launched the ball up field," he

*'I love what I'm doing at Tamworth. Some great players I played with aren't involved in the game at all'*

says, winning at the memory. "Our keeper, Dave Latchford, dashed out but his clearance hit John Mitchell, their No 9, in the chest. The ball just bobbed in."

Five years passed before the Cup fates favoured Hendrie on "a right mudbath" at Halifax. City included players like Steve Daley (£1.5m) and Michael Robinson (£750,000), but the only scorer was a diminutive midfielder signed on a free transfer.

Hendrie can still picture every detail of the build-up, culminating in his left-footed shot past Joe Corrigan. "There were 15 minutes to go and City battered us. It was a case of holding on as they threw everything forward. Afterwards they complained a lot about the pitch."

After playing professionally until he was 35, Hendrie helped to nurture Lee's precocious talent while taking his first, modest

est steps into management in the Midlands. Having cut his teeth with Chelmsley, where the dug-out was "basically a box", and Redditch, he came to Tamworth three and a half years ago.

They soon won the Midland Division by a 26-point margin and now have their sights on the Conference. Despite the weekly exodus to watch the likes of Villa and Wolves, Hendrie points to a hard core of 800 fans as proof of the club's potential.

"I'm very pleased with the progress here, and not just the first team. They didn't run any other sides before I arrived but now we've got Under-14s, a youth team and a reserve side who are top of their league."

His office is spartan, the walls adorned only by the odd pennant and the desk bare save for a couple of good-luck cards. Some might see it as a comedown for one who has tackled Pele, but not Hendrie. "I love what I'm doing. Some great players I played with, internationals like Kenny Burns, aren't involved in the game at all."

Exeter, who have taken just one point from seven away fixtures in the Third Division, would represent Tamworth's first full-time scalp since another Devon outfit, Torquay, in 1989. Were Lee to have been called up by Glenn Hoddle on Friday, it would complete an incredible 24 hours for father and son.

Hendrie watches Villa whenever Tamworth are not playing and is honest enough not to claim Lee as a chip off the old block. "He's far more skilful than I ever was. I was a bit of a ball-winner whereas he's got tricks. I had a bad disciplinary record and though Lee got sent off on his debut, it was a shocking decision. He's got a much better temperament than me."

"The big difference over the past nine months is that John Gregory has given Lee the opportunity everyone felt he deserved. If Brian Little was still there, he probably wouldn't have progressed."

Lee was eligible to play for Scotland, and Craig Brown would love to have given him the chance. "It was my decision," confesses Paul with an unmistakable Glaswegian twang. "Villa asked me which country's under-18s I wanted him to go with and I reckoned a wee English boy was going to get whacked in the air up there. He was playing in England and he's a Brummie really."

Given the Cup's knack of fulfilling fantasies, it is not too far-fetched to imagine Tamworth running out before a bulging Villa Park in the third round. Paul Hendrie beams at the thought and says: "I might just come out of retirement for that one."



Paul Hendrie, the Tamworth manager, hopes to guide his team to a giant-killing FA Cup victory over Exeter City on Saturday David Ashdown



Son and father: Aston Villa's Lee Hendrie (left), and dad Paul (right), who played against Pele and Beckenbauer

## TVM team's riders 'took drug cocktails'

THE TEAM leader, Jeroen Blijlevens, and the other eight riders in Dutch outfit TVM tested positive for drugs during the Tour de France, French court sources said yesterday.

The findings are in a 200-page report sent to the judge handling the TVM case in Reims by doctors from an Albertville hospital, where blood tests were performed on the riders on 28 July.

Every rider tested positive for several banned substances including steroids and growth hormones. At least four used erythropoietin (EPO), which enhances the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. Three others were declared positive for

amphetamines and a fourth for cannabis. The report said the riders used powerful "home-made cocktails" of banned substances.

A prosecutor said last week that the TVM doctor, Andrei Mikhailov, who has been under preventive arrest since 27 July, would not be freed in the near future. The team's sporting director, Cess Priem, and its masseur, Jan Moors, are no longer being held, but are confined to the area of Marne.

Mikhailov confessed to having arranged provision of 104 EPO doses which police discovered in the trunk of a team car.

### TODAY'S FIXTURES

**FOOTBALL**  
7.30 unless stated  
WORTHINGTON CUP  
FOURTH ROUND  
Aston v Chelsea (7.45)  
Everton v Sunderland (8.0)  
Leicester v Leeds (7.45)  
Manchester Utd v Nottingham Forest (8.0)  
Newcastle v Blackburn (7.45)

**FA CUP**  
FOURTH QUALIFYING ROUND  
Replays  
Hays v Havant & Waterlooville (7.45)  
Rushden v Leatherhead (7.45)  
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
SECOND DIVISION  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)

**DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP**  
First round first leg  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)  
Gillingham v Wigan (8.0)

### RUGBY LEAGUE

**HOMER INTERNATIONAL** France v Scotland (5.0) (at Perpignan)  
**RUGBY UNION**  
TOUR MATCH: Edinburgh v New Zealand (7.0) (at Murrayfield Park, Edinburgh)  
**EUROPEAN SHIELD** Pool B: Montpellier v Biarritz (5.0)  
**HART GILMORE NORTH MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP** Shropshire v Worcester & Herefordshire (7.30) (at Shrewsbury)

**BANK OF SCOTLAND BORDER LEAGUE** Langholm v Jed-Forest (7.0)  
**CLUB MATCHES** Richmond v Cambridge University (7.30) Bridgend v Llantrisant (7.15)  
**BASKETBALL**  
BUPRESER LEAGUE: Manchester Giants v London Towers (7.30)

**OTHER SPORTS**  
SNOOKER: Benson & Hedges Championship (Malvern)

### WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP**  
1 Arsenal v Tottenham  
2 Charlton v Middlesbrough  
3 Chelsea v Wimbledon  
4 Liverpool v Leeds  
5 Man Utd v Blackburn  
6 Newcastle v Sheffield Wed  
7 Southampton v Aston Villa  
8 West Ham v Leicester  
9 Reading v Everton  
10 Nottingham Forest v Derby

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION**  
9 Barnet v Ipswich  
10 Birmingham v Oxford Utd  
11 Bolton v Tranmere  
12 Bradford v Swindon  
13 Crewe v QPR  
14 Crystal Palace v Bristol City  
15 Grimsby v Portsmouth  
16 Norwich v Wolves  
17 Port Vale v Sunderland  
18 Sheffield Utd v Barnsley  
19 Stockport v Walsford  
20 West Brom v Huddersfield

**FA CUP FIRST ROUND**  
1 Cardiff v Chester  
2 Darlington v Burnley  
3 Dulwich v Southport  
4 Enfield v York  
25 Huddersfield v Carlisle  
26 Huddersfield v Barnet  
27 Leyton Orient v Brighton  
28 Macclesfield v Stockport  
29 Oldham v Gillingham  
30 Plymouth v Kidderminster  
31 Rotherham v Stevenage  
32 Scarborough v Rochdale  
33 Southend v Doncaster  
34 Swanssea v Millwall  
35 Tamworth v Exeter  
36 Telford v Cambridge Utd  
37 Wigan v Blackpool  
38 Wrexham v Peterborough  
39 Wycombe v Chesham

**SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE**  
40 Dundee v Kilmarnock  
41 Motherwell v Hearts

### SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

44 Ayr v Clydebank  
45 Falkirk v Raith  
46 Greenock Morton v Aldrie  
47 Hamilton v Stranraer  
48 Hibernian v St Mirren

**SECOND DIVISION**  
49 Arbroath v Livingston  
50 Brechin v Dundee  
51 Dundee v Dundee  
52 Dundee v Dundee

**FOUR DRAWS** Charlton v Middlesbrough, Liverpool v Leeds, Southampton v Aston Villa, West Ham v Leicester

JP 11/11/98



**WOMEN'S ADVANTAGE CHAMPIONSHIP** (Philadelphia) Singles, First Round: P Schnyder (Swi) bt S Farina (I) 4-6 6-4; A Coetzee (SA) bt S Coetzee (I) 6-2 6-0; N Zvereva (Bel) bt T Smith (US) 6-2 6-1; K Po (US) bt C Morosini (US) 6-1 6-3; A Frazier (US) bt I Mahalingam (Ind) 2-6 6-2 6-4; L Raymond (US) bt C Gallien (Bel) 6-3 6-3.



## SPORT

HOW LARA REGAINED CONTROL P24 • RETURN OF BULLDOZER QUINNELL P27

## Kinsella's fate rests with Fifa

CHARLTON ATHLETIC will find out today whether they have to release their captain Mark Kinsella and their first-choice goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, for next week's rearranged Yugoslavia v Republic of Ireland European Championship qualifier.

The pair have been named in their respective countries' squads for the 18 November fixture, which was moved back from last month because of the tense political situation in the Balkans at the time.

Under Fifa regulations, clubs must release their players five days before an international - and that would result in Kinsella and Ilic missing Charlton's Premiership encounter with Middlesbrough on Saturday. Now the south London club have accused the two nations and world football's ruling body of failing to give them at least 14 days' notice of the rearranged game.

A Fifa spokesman said yesterday: "The case has been referred to the Players' Status Committee. It is responsible for dealing with any situation where there's a dispute or uncertainty about a player's availability. We're waiting for its decision tomorrow."

So far Charlton have failed to get the five-day rule waived or the Middlesbrough game moved - if the international had been staged on its original date of 14 October the two players would have missed no club matches. Now Charlton's managing director, Peter Varney, has written to the Football Association of Ireland and the Yugoslav FA, informing them they will not release the players until after they play against Middlesbrough.

Hull City have parted company with Mark Hateley, their player-manager. The 37-year-old former England centre-forward's job has been under

## FOOTBALL

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

threat in the wake of last week's takeover. The British Davis Cup tennis captain, David Lloyd, sold the club, claiming a lack of support in the city.

Hull's experienced midfielder, Warren Joyce, was in caretaker charge for last night's home game against Brighton. Russell Slade, the youth-team coach at Sheffield United and a former Notts County manager, has been linked with the vacancy.

Paul Merson was yesterday reported to be considering retiring from international football to concentrate his efforts on Aston Villa's assault on the Premiership title.

"I haven't a lot of time left to win a championship again - this season is the ideal opportunity for me," the Villa midfielder said. "Retiring from international football would get me fresher and sharper for the domestic game."

The Villa manager, John Gregory, is considering a move to sign the Finnish Under-21 international goalkeeper, Petr Enckelman. The highly rated player has joined Villa on trial, as Gregory draws up contingency plans in the event of Mark Bosnich leaving the club next summer. The Australian international is out of contract at the end of the season, and Gregory has resigned himself to the fact that he will be leaving Villa Park.

Gregory, who has described rumours linking him with the Ipswich keeper Richard Wright as "nonsense", also has a 26-year-old American keeper, Marcus Hahnemann, being put through his paces at Villa Park. But the 21-year-old 6ft 3in Enckelman looks to be closest to sealing a move to Villa Park.

Gregory said: "We are assessing two very highly regarded goalkeepers because we must be ready to respond, should Mark decide to leave the club next summer."

"Petr will be here until we decide what we are going to do. But there is no doubt about the potential that he has," added Gregory, who last week took his spending at Villa on new players to £21m with the signing of Dion Dublin.

Sheffield Wednesday have made an enquiry about Celtic's Swedish striker Henrik Larsson. However, according to the club's official web site, they were told that the Scottish champions' current top scorer - rated at around £4m - is not for sale.

Stoke City have accepted a £150,000 offer from Dundee for Steven Tweed, but a deal depends on the centre-back agreeing personal terms.

Wolves' caretaker manager, Colin Lee, has offered £300,000 for Robert Nistroj, a 23-year-old midfielder player with Fortuna Dusseldorf, despite admitting he has not seen him play. Port Vale have signed the Norwegian utility player Robin Berntsen on loan from Tromso.

Crystal Palace's Chinese defender Fan Zhiyi has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association, following an incident at his club's First Division match at West Bromwich on 3 November. He is alleged to have manhandled the referee Terry Halliwell at the end of Palace's 3-2 defeat.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SQUAD (European Championship qualifier v Yugoslavia, Belfast, 18 November): Oliver (Newcastle), Wemyss (Bury), Burke (Preston), O'Connell (Sheff Wed), Scannell (Liverpool), Harte (Leeds), Cunningham (Widestown), Bala (Liverpool), Byrne (County), Ray (Leeds), McCarthy (Uth), Kinsella (Charlton), McLoughlin (Portsmouth), McKeever (Liverpool), Duff (Blackburn), Whalley (Bristol City), Conboy (Nancy), Quinn (Sunderland), Delap (Derby), Connolly (Wolves), O'Neill (Norwich).

Football, pages 28, 29

Thorpe's career-best 223 fills England with new hope



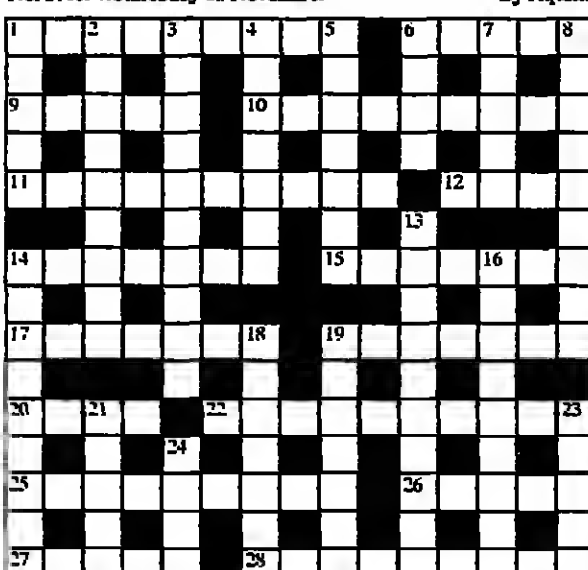
England left-hander Graham Thorpe hits out en route to his record score of 223 against South Australia in Adelaide. His fifth-wicket stand of 377 with Mark Ramprakash was the highest first-class total amassed for any wicket by an overseas side in Australia. Report, page 25; Allsport

## THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3785, Wednesday 11 November

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



GREYHOUND  
SUNBATH  
DIESEL  
ALCOHOL  
UPPER  
EMPHATIC  
ONBOARD  
PAULINE  
TUSK  
OFFICIAL  
LUSK  
EMOTION  
DIESEL  
INADVERTENTLY

## ACROSS

- 1 Out of favour, our plan up for amendment? (9)
- 6 Insecurity for every one left (5)
- 9 Apart, but not as below (5)
- 10 Barb is prudent approaching snow (9)
- 11 Finnish people coming back in rows of big cars (10)
- 12 Change direction when composer drops in (4)
- 14 Painter of swirling sea-mist (7)
- 15 Beef of league leaders? (7)
- 17 Marco Polo, for example, and the atmosphere left there (7)
- 19 Gammies translated as teasers (7)

## DOWN

- 20 Central core of Scotland? (4)
- 22 Carmen sits, misbehaving, with villains (10)
- 25 No travelling-case? (2-7)
- 26 Aquatic bird where salt is found in France (5)
- 27 Warwick, for example, year in advance (5)
- 28 Courts at night? (9)
- 1 Regular stock (5)
- 2 One counts the steps of epistler, taking in millennium feature (9)
- 3 Striking supersonic explosion (10)
- 4 When most of the Strand, say, can be seen? (3,4)
- 5 Particular value (7)
- 6 Agreement compressed, (7)

- 7 Land at open stretch of water on river (5)
- 8 Keats lope off from these northern bards? (4,5)
- 13 Appearing for trial, team depressed and confused (6,4)
- 14 Contemplate trouble in the interval (9)
- 16 Protected from mediums in frenzy (9)
- 18 The ladies and gentlemen in T S Eliot play (7)
- 19 Former partner quote radical leader as agitator? (7)
- 21 Headland right for romp (5)
- 23 A lieutenant on board with seamen (5)
- 24 Tarry rope (4)

## FA appoint Mr Bean as new 'sleazebuster'

BY NICK HARRIS

THE FOOTBALL Association yesterday announced the appointment of a 37-year-old police officer as its new 'sleazebuster'.

Graham Bean, who will give up his job as a detective constable in the South Yorkshire police force to take up his new position in January, has been the national chairman of the Football Supporters' Association for the past two years.

Bean's new role - his official title will be Football Association Compliance Officer - will be to oversee issues of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and general misconduct within football.

"As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting disciplinary cases and alleged breaches of the FA's rules and regulations," an FA spokesman said yesterday.

In high-profile cases of alleged misconduct by players, managers or clubs, Bean will investigate the evidence and recommend to FA chief executive Graham Kelly - who remains the overall decision-maker on such issues - whether action should be taken. If a personal hearing is then requested before an FA disciplinary committee, Bean will take on the role of prosecutor, which does not currently exist.

The FSA added in a statement: "We welcome the establishment of the post and hope the compliance officer and in time any future compliance unit will make a significant contribution to tightening up regulation within the game, particularly in relation to the financial affairs of individual clubs."

"We congratulate Graham and, although he will step down as FSA chair at the FSA national committee meeting on 15 November, we are confident that he will continue to represent the interests of fans competently and effectively in his new post."

Bean was elected national chairman of the FSA in July 1996 and in that capacity is a member of the Football Task Force headed by former MP and broadcaster David Mellor.

While at the FSA, Bean has also been involved in setting up a nationwide bank of solicitors and barristers with expertise in football-related law.

The role of a compliance officer was first proposed in Sir John Smith's report to the FA last year into the values, finances and reputation of football in the wake of the so-called 'bungs' inquiry.

Other measures being introduced following the report are the establishment of a code of conduct, the modernisation of disciplinary processes and the setting-up of a financial advisory unit to give information to clubs. A short-list of 10 lawyers, police officers and people with a criminal justice background was drawn up for the new post, from which Bean was chosen.

## Dalglish fronts Celtic bid

YESTERDAY'S ATTEMPT by a consortium headed by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr, the Simple Minds singer, to take over Celtic, was welcomed by Celtic supporters who feel such a move would transform the club in every department. The players were more cautious.

Peter Rafferty, who heads the Affiliation of Registered Celtic Supporters' Clubs, believes it would be an overdue second revolution at Parkhead.

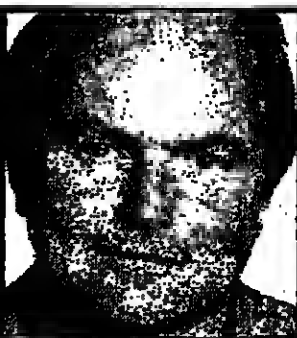
"It is one of the most positive things I have heard about Celtic in the past five years," he said. "It would put the club into the big league both in personnel and financial terms because I am sure the backers are mega-time. Kenny Dalglish should be able to attract major players to the club."

Among the Celtic players, David Hannah was one of the more vocal "if Mr McCann decides that is the right option

I will be happy with that as well because if it goes on to enhance Celtic Football Club then it will be a good thing."

But the goalkeeper, Jonathan Gould, said: "It should be remembered Fergus McCann has made an impact himself by building the stadium he promised and seeing us to the title last year. It is about football, if you win on a Saturday the supporters always go home happy."

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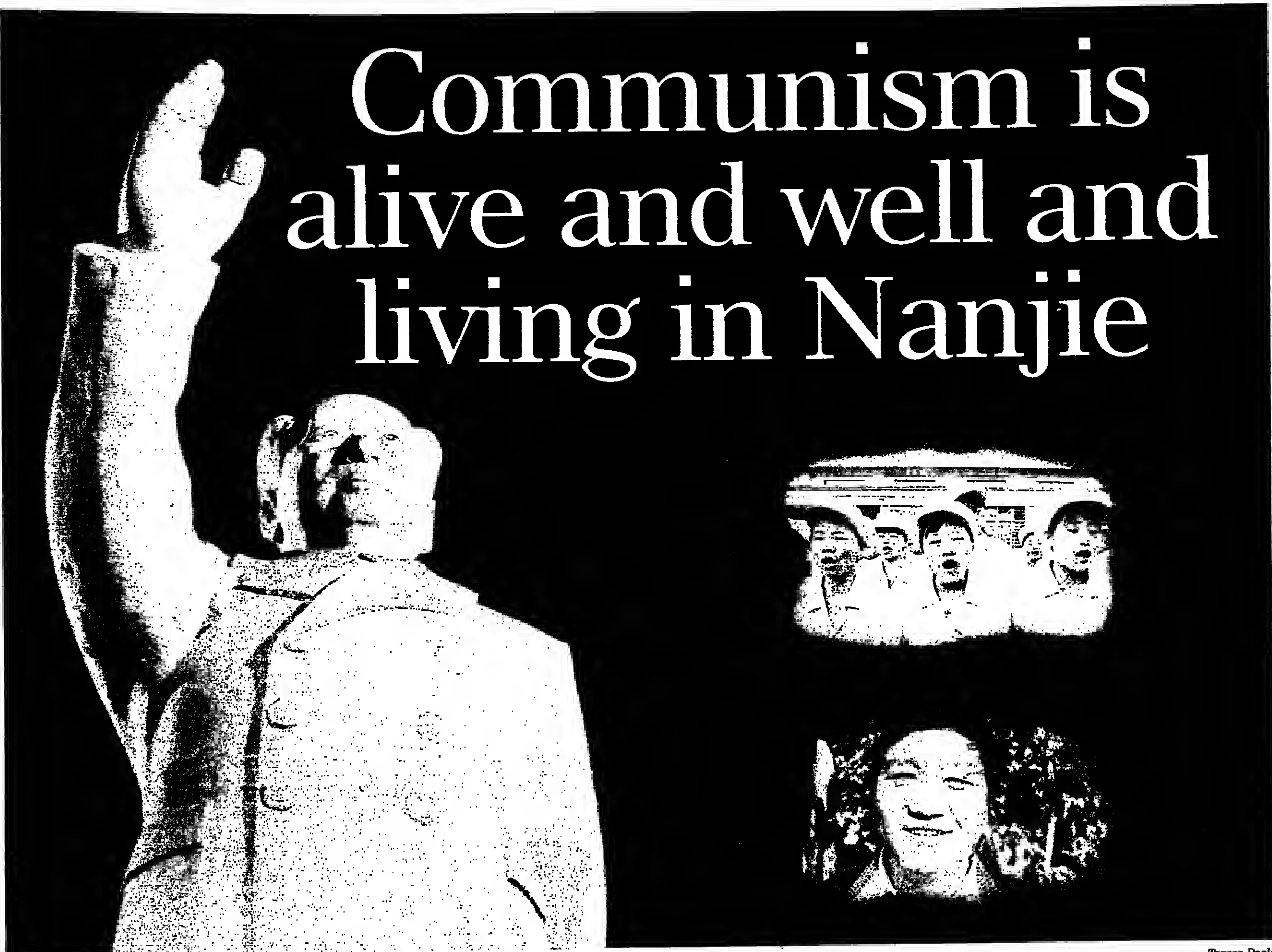
THE INDEPENDENT

11 November 1998

# WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## Communism is alive and well and living in Nanjie



Above right, workers at the No 2 Noodle Factory; below right, Wang Hongbin, Nanjie's Communist Party secretary since 1977

Teresa Poole

Welcome to the village where everyone has a job for life and housing, holidays, electricity and food are free. The rest of China may have gone crazy for capitalism, but Nanjie has returned to the ideals of Chairman Mao and is making them work

By night, the towering, floodlit statue of Chairman Mao stands luminous against the dark sky, the Great Helmsman surveying the Maoist bastion that is Nanjie village. While the rest of China has spent two decades hurtling towards untrammelled capitalism, this village in central Henan Province has decided that it prefers the old ways.

So Nanjie's 3,130 citizens have recollectivised the farmland and taken back village industries from private management. Under a collective welfare system, everyone has been given an identical apartment, fitted out with identical village-issued furniture, television set, telephone and cooker. No one now earns more than 250 yuan (£19) a month, but everyone receives 14 free benefits which include schooling, health care, housing, electricity, life insurance, and a range of foodstuffs such as flour, eggs and oil.

Such privileges, however, are reduced should a family lose any stars under the 10-star good behaviour system, whose edicts embrace such Maoist principles as thrifty living, hygiene and selfless deeds.

Mao would be proud. According to village leaders, within the 0.7 square miles of Nanjie there is no crime, no unemployment, and no unplanned babies. Marriages are conducted in a group ceremony every 1 January; a communal canteen has been opened for village cadres, with plans to expand group eating, and free group holidays are organised for the best workers.

The Great Helmsman is everywhere. The village committee building banner reads "The Eternal Light of Mao Zedong Thought", everyone is issued with a book of Mao's key works, and all must attend weekly political study classes. Yang Rui, 31, director of the general office at the No 2 Noodle Factory, described a political class the previous Saturday: "We learnt Mao thought, and studied stories in the newspaper about people's good deeds. We were very sincere in this study, and afterwards carried out self-criticism."

Nanjie's 11,000 migrant workers, who staff the village's 26 enterprises, start and end their shifts with renditions of Mao's revolutionary songs, such as "The Great Helmsman Sailing on the Seas". The weekly Nanjie newspaper always prints next to its masthead a long quote from Mao, in red, of course. Even the village telephone directory has a photo of Mao on its cover.

So is this China's last bastion of leftism, backed by the remnant hardliners in Peking? Next month, China will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Deng Xiaoping's reforms, launched in 1978 with the crucial decision to hand back the land to the peasants and allow private enterprise.

Nanjie's behaviour, however, apparently conflicts with all the tenets of today's central government policy to scrap welfare benefits, privatise housing and divorce government from business enterprise.

Yet Nanjie's figures reflect a startling success: total production output rose from 700,000 yuan

Nanjie may be the first in China to realise Communism."

By 6.20am, "The East is Red" was blaring from village speakers. The 150 mostly teenage village militia, back from their 5am run, were assembled for a quick revolutionary song before breakfast and road-sweeping duty. Unity is strength, they chorused. By 7.30am, over at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, the night shift was knocking off work and lining up for their morning drill. Tang Xiaoli, a 19-year-old migrant worker, said: "In most cases, when the machines stop, we have political study. But I like working here; the food and housing are all very good." Then she ran off to join her colleagues in a rendition of "Socialism is good, socialist people are of high consciousness". Nanjie is now China's biggest instant noodle base, producing 380 tonnes a day.

Wang Hongbin, 48, is the man behind it all. Referred to as *ban zhang* (head of the class) by villagers, he has been Nanjie's Communist

party secretary since 1977. He also earns 250 yuan a month, and said he had no bank savings.

"Only by serving the Communist Party and people well could I repay the party for its kindness."

Mr Wang was in charge when the Mao communes were dismantled after 1978, and the land and enterprises were contracted to individual peasants. The official line is that the reforms were not a success. Many farmers deserted their land, and at the flour and brick plants the new bosses got richer but the workers did not.

So, from 1984, the enterprises were taken back into village management, and from 1986 the land was recollectivised. Yang Hua, 32, director of accounting at the No 2 Instant Noodle Factory, said: "From then on we have advocated to follow the socialist road and get rich collectively."

Nanjie's private stalls and restaurants, all run by outsiders, are contained within a specified area, and mostly serve visitors and migrant

workers. Mr Wang explained: "Our slogan is for Nanjie people to be rich, but without a cent in savings." The statue of Mao went up in 1993.

Is this Maoist hell or heaven? Entering Nanjie feels rather like stepping on to a film set. Leaving behind the chaos and squalor of normal rural China, you wander down a 400-metre covered walkway between the newly built school and the white-tiled apartment blocks. The empty streets are spotless, lined with rubbish bins, trees, flowers and landscaped gardens. In the self-styled Land of Purity, there are no karaoke bars.

In private conversations with villagers and migrant workers, it is clear that to a Chinese peasant, hot running water in a modern bathroom is worth several hours of political claptrap. All expressed admiration for Mr Wang, and outsiders said they wished they too could be Nanjie villagers.

An Hongxia, 25, was born in Nanjie but five years ago married out, to a man from a nearby village. She now runs a private restaurant in the adjacent county town. "I would like to return to Nanjie, but I cannot," she said. "The living conditions are better there. There is no extra worry for you, since everything is supplied. There are some shortcomings over there, some lack of freedom and strict discipline. But everybody wants to go back."

These days, unlike in the past, there is no shortage of girls keen to marry into Nanjie. But such brides must make the grade. Sheng Ganyu, head of publicity for Nanjie, said: "Before a marriage, we send a group of people to conduct a survey of conditions on the girl's side, her education and work performance, to make sure she is a good girl."

Nanjie is certainly no ordinary village. However, on closer examination, a curious brand of modern-day feudalism is seen to be at work. There are 3,130 Nanjie citizens who qualify for the welfare benefits, of whom about half are of working age. Add to that the 250 or so outsiders, and the village is a small, tightly controlled community.

Continued on page 8

BY TERESA POOLE

(£24,000) in 1984, the year the recollectivisation started, to 210m yuan (£16m) in 1992, and then to a staggering 1.57bn yuan (£120m) in 1997, with the products of the factories ranging from colour-printing to beer. Agriculture now accounts for less than 1 per cent of production.

But China's Communist history is littered with examples of model villages that turned out to be fakes. So is Nanjie for real, or another fraud?

Early morning in Nanjie was quite an experience. The school gates opened at 5.35am for morning assembly, followed by a run, and an hour of pre-school self-study. In the dark, 12-year-old Luo Zhiqiang explained that a normal day would not finish until 8pm. How about Mao?

"He's a good leader of our country. We should study his spirit well," the child trotted out by rote.

Guo Guizheng, the headmistress, said: "Since the whole country is already socialist, we are now building up the Communist community so that

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						<b>FINANCE</b>



## Remembrance

Sir: At Sunday's ceremony at the Cenotaph, I noted that certain members of the Royal Family continued to wear naval and military uniforms of a much superior rank to the one that they personally earned during their time in the armed services. Thus, we had the spectacle of the Duke of Kent parading in the uniform of a field marshal, no less.

Even if this practice is followed merely for ceremonial purposes, I suggest that it creates a Ruritanian atmosphere of fancy-dress, more appropriate to the Victorian era. It is hardly helpful to the Ministry of Defence in its efforts to portray the armed services as providing careers open to merit and talent, rather than privilege.

If the Blair government is serious about creating a truly modern society, then practices like this should be consigned to history. If the persons concerned are no longer serving officers, then what is wrong with civilian dress?

R J RUMSEY  
Cranbrook, Kent

Sir: Notwithstanding the arrogant dismissal by Dr Mark Mazower of recent research (Saturday Essay, 7 November), the idea that statesmen were driven to war in 1914 by a tide of popular belligerence is a myth.

The greatest French historian of the war, Jean-Jacques Becker, has shown on the basis of exhaustive research that the popular reaction to the outbreak of the war in France was consternation, followed by resignation. Jeffrey Verhey has comprehensively demonstrated that the "community of August" in Germany was a propaganda construct; pictures were cropped and faked, the widespread anti-war demonstrations were censored.

Work on this subject in Britain is in its infancy, but early indications suggest that when local communities are studied, the "cheering crowds" begin to disappear from view. It is in fact quite possible that the "handful of principled and far-sighted pacifists" invented popular war enthusiasm to glorify themselves.

Historians for years have been misled by the writings of avant-garde intellectuals and artists on this subject. These were the segment of society which wished to escape from "materialism". To take their views on war as typical of popular opinion is similar to using Damien Hirst as evidence for contemporary British attitudes to animal rights. The whole point of the avant-garde was their rejection of "normal" societal attitudes. The most striking case is in Italy, where Futurist glorification of war contrasted deeply with the widespread anti-war sentiment in society as a whole.

To suggest that the Europeans of 1914 were too stupid to grasp the benefits of peace and prosperity is an insult to the dead. The victims, military and civilian, of the Great War were not the architects of their own disaster. On this 80th anniversary of the end of the war, we should not promulgate the myth that this war was a punishment for the sin of popular war enthusiasm. The men who caused the war, the statesmen and generals, with their calculations and miscalculations, have been spared condemnation by this argument of "inevitability".

I agree with Dr Mazower that we find it hard to grasp the pre-war world. We find it hard to grasp precisely because we fail to understand the genuine optimism about the elimination of war which was so widespread. Ours is a far more belligerent age.

Dr ADRIAN GREGORY  
Bishop in History  
Fendrobke College, Oxford

Sir: Your report on the Messines Ridge peace tower (10 November), did not mention that the Irish Parliamentary Party leader John Redmond, militarily committed 170,000 of the Irish Volunteers on 3 August 1914 to fight against Germany. In all, over 300,000 Catholic Irish took part, with 40,000

killed and more VC's won, in proportion to the numbers fighting, than any other part of the Empire.

However, Lord Kitchener, Minister for War who was of a rank-renting Anglo-Irish family in Ireland, refused to allow these men to have their own divisions, unlike the Ulster Protestants, because he regarded the Catholics as "not loyal" and insisted that they be distributed throughout other formations.

To claim that some of the Catholics were shot by the IRA upon their return can only be anecdotal, since the IRA evolved in December 1918 from the survivors of the Irish Volunteers, who returned home to find that Lloyd George had reneged on the Irish Home Rule Bill, which had received Royal Assent in September 1914 but had been put into abeyance until the end of the conflict, with Redmond's approval. Had Redmond withstood the Irish Volunteers until 1915, when Britain was desperate for manpower, he could have had Home Rule for the asking and these men would have come back to an Irish government.

ARTHUR VALENTINE  
Edinburgh

Sir: John Lichfield writes of the apparent need for a British museum or visitor centre which would explain so much of the inexplicable to British and Commonwealth visitors to Great War battlefields ("The memory of war", 6 November). He mentions the German cemeteries which he finds moving - but does not mention any need for visitors to be educated there.

Why not mark the appalling waste of life, and educate visitors in the follies of excessive nationalism, by losing the label "British" and insisting on "European"? Nations divided and hostile at the start of the century can surely collaborate on a museum project which would belong to us all as the century ends. An imaginative European approach to history, recognising jointly the suffering which afflicted

all combatants, would speak more to future generations about our determination to overcome differences than any number of remembrance ceremonies.

MARY DUNK  
Alpheton, Suffolk

Sir: It has been salutary in the past few days to juxtapose the solemn remembrance of the dead of two world wars with the tabloid and TV news coverage of the hounding of gay Cabinet ministers and the manufacture of rifts in the Royal Family. If the slain of the Somme were resurrected and sat down in front of a TV news bulletin, would they be entitled to ask: "In God's name, is this what we all died for?"

W C FELTON  
Manchester

## Eco-terrorism

Sir: I read with interest your article "Police unit to target green protesters" (7 November). Such a move is long overdue.

Clearly, as Assistant Commissioner Anthony Speed points out, plans are needed at a

national level to deal with "demonstrators who climb into trees". Such violent and dangerous activities as protesting against roads, disrupting the activities of hunters, and opposition to animal experiments represent a real threat to our national security. Certainly it merits the establishment of this new group with special powers, and links to MI5 and Special Branch.

I myself have often read of the increasingly violent methods used by these eco warriors, such as waving placards, singing protest songs (tunelessly), hiding in tunnels, and, on more than one occasion, getting in the way.

I likewise applaud the decision to set up a costly national database to keep track of these terrorists, given that Mr Speed has cleverly deduced that quite often "the same people are involved". May I suggest that he monitor in particular the activities of retired members of the population, schoolchildren, certain Members of Parliament, large swaths of the law-abiding middle and working classes, and any other malcontent who does not ride to bounds.

Westminster Abbey, will have been appreciative of the perceptive article by Andreas Whitam Smith (Comment, 9 November). Nevertheless, may I correct Mr Whitam Smith on one important error? Through my letter box here has come no less than £94,000 since I convened those who support Dr Neary, far more than the £40,000 quoted. Your readers may judge for themselves what this means in terms of the respect and admiration in which this outstanding church musician is held by people from all parts of the world.

Professor Sir BRYAN THWAITES  
Winchester

## IN BRIEF

Sir: Marks & Spencer's loss of profit is the same story as Yardley's failure, and the decline of Radio 4 listening figures. Years ago, the over-thirties customer could go to M&S and be reasonably sure of finding clothing they would like to buy. M&S decided they wanted a younger customer. Their core business has suffered, and they have failed to attract the young, as have Yardley and Radio 4. A misplaced obsession with youth (which they don't understand) is responsible.

M E PINCOTT  
Stroud, Gloucestershire

Sir: All those who feel that a great injustice has been done to Dr Martin Neary, the dismissed organist and choirmaster of

Sir: Like Mary Harvey (letter, 7 November) I very much enjoyed the lighter evenings during the experimental period of keeping the clocks an hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. The reason for this measure during the Second World War was to save precious energy. It seems strange that when the need to preserve resources becomes ever more pressing the Government neglects to take this step.

However, in the end it boils down to a matter of personal preference. Referendums are becoming more common. Here is something which everyone can understand and which could be decided in this way.

SUZANNE TIBURTUS  
Cantenbury

exports and bunting. It seems that many of the people who put their trust in Labour and helped to put Labour in power have not only been betrayed but are now to be persecuted into the bargain.

PETER ALLEN  
Worthing, West Sussex

## Defensive medicine

Sir: Marina Cantacuzino's article, "Birth pains which end in tragedy" (9 November) keenly illustrates the problems generated by our system of compensation for medical negligence.

Although the NHS complaints procedure is designed to give patients maximum information, the tendency of clinicians to go into "defence mode" is understandable. Admissions of culpability leave oneself open to professional censure as witnessed in the case of the Bristol cardiac surgeons' and litigation.

Contrary to popular belief, as well as that of many solicitors, NHS trusts are not insured against medical negligence claims and it is they who foot the bill. Couple this with the fallibility of the medical profession, the impossibility of predicting and preventing many of the adverse consequences of childbirth and a system of health care provision predicated on a localised budget (NHS trusts), and it is any wonder that doctors are reluctant to own up and say sorry?

If the NHS really wants a method of telling patients the truth when things go wrong, the system of compensation for victims of medical accidents and negligence must be centralised. This would also reduce the suffering of those who have to pursue an adversarial course for years before receiving justice and fairly compensate those whose children, for example, are damaged by a medical accident and are currently entitled to very little.

Mr L J ROBERTS MRCOG  
Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist  
Winterton, Lincolnshire

## Cannabis therapy

Sir: With the publication of the Lords report on medicinal cannabis, I thought it prudent as a cannabis-using multiple sclerosis sufferer and a representative of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, to present the views of the people most affected by the blanket prohibition of cannabis.

There are thousands of sick people throughout the UK using cannabis and finding it of benefit for many illnesses. If we carry on using cannabis we are leaving ourselves open to criminal prosecution, but if we obey the law and desist from the practice we are faced with the very real possibility of our condition worsening.

It must be understood that we are not hedonistic, irresponsible teenagers, but ill people who find themselves in the absurd position of being denied the one effective means of palliative treatment available to them by, in many cases, the party they had supported at the general election. It is disturbing that instead of endeavouring to institute objective research into the medicinal properties of pure cannabis, the Government, without scientific justification, seems to take some satisfaction in denying us this vital medication.

I did not expect, or intend, to be in conflict with my own government at this point in my life - MS itself is a daunting foe - but this government must surely have the wisdom to understand that we are no threat to society's stability, but just incurably ill people wishing to treat themselves as they, and in most cases their doctors, see fit. It is an absurdity, if not an obscenity, to be forced to seek our medication from criminal sources.

ANDREW COLDWELL  
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

## 2000 bug looms

Sir: Your coverage of the growing fears over the Millennium Bug exposes the failure of politicians to insist on the necessary action on the part of governments ("Troops on standby for 2000 bug chaos", 5 November).

Many experts believe that it is now too late to avoid problems and that it is essential that contingency plans be in place and thoroughly tested. When I raised this issue with the then Prime Minister in 1995 I was assured that his government was taking the action necessary. The following year it launched the Taskforce 2000 awareness campaign, which the Labour government immediately shelved - losing six crucial months before replacing it with Action 2000.

However, if the last government had had the foresight to allow my Companies (Millennium Computer Compliance) Bill to become law in 1997, obliging directors to report on the readiness of companies to their shareholders in the annual report, Britain today would be better prepared. So it would be if the present government had not "objected" to my Millennium Conformity Bill, which would have safeguarded essential public services and infrastructure. I hope that it will support the Computer Millennium Non-Compliance (Contingency Plans) Bill, which I intend to introduce early in the next session of Parliament.

Finally, there is no internationally agreed standard of millennium compliance. Thus, I hope that governments will urgently respond to my amendment to a recent Council of Europe report on the global economy (Resolution 1167) calling for such a definition, and for a world test day which would allow good time to take the further action necessary to correct those problems which are certain to be exposed.

DAVID ATKINSON MP  
(Bournemouth East, C)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

## Outed

Sir: It would appear that Tony Blair's cabinet is actually turning out to be more of a closet.

DAVID MCNICKLE  
St Albans, Hertfordshire

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Hibernating Houses No 3: While Pan plays in the foreground, garden statuary at Anglesey Abbey is tented against the frost

Brian Harris

## It's autumn - so check your lawnmower for Lord Lucan

IT'S TIME for another monthly check-list of things to do in the garden, and while November is very much a tidying up and clearing month, there are still plenty of things you can do to help plan for next year. So read this list and get cracking.

● Have you burnt your Christmas tree from last year yet? Many of us just push it under the bushes, planning to put it on the bonfire later, and leave it there indefinitely. Go and locate it under the bushes, and pull it out. If you are not planning to have a bonfire just yet, or if it is too wet, push it back under the bushes, together with all the previous year's Christmas trees.

● Rake all leaves from off the lawn. When you are half-way

through, realise that the half you have just cleared has already been covered by more leaves, freshly blown down. Abandon leaf-raking.

● Have you given your lawn its last cut of the year yet? The answer is yes, no matter how long it is. Long grass survives the winter better.

● Now would be a good time to put your lawnmower in for its annual servicing, when it isn't needed at home. On the other hand, everyone else in the world will be putting their mower in for servicing too right now, so why join the queue? Wait till the springtime to put it in, when you will be needing a good excuse for not mowing the lawn.

● If you really can't be bothered this year to get your lawnmower

served, or if you think it won't survive another year, it's time to think seriously about getting a small flock of sheep in, which will keep the grass level down and may attract a good Brussels subsidy. Sheep are going very cheap at the moment, I believe.

● If you followed my advice last year and got a flock of sheep, now is the time to put them out into winter pasture.

● Have you put your sundial back one hour? If not, don't bother.

● If you live on a National Trust property, now is a good time to search the grounds for missing visitors, absconding West Indian cricket captains, Lord Lucan, Salman Rushdie, etc.



MILES KINGTON  
Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove...

● Incidentally, have you noticed that before the fatwa was withdrawn against Mr Rushdie, you

could hardly switch on the TV or radio without finding him defiantly there, on screen or on air, but now that he is comparatively safe in public, he seems to have gone into hiding? Not exactly a gardening point, but interesting, I think.

● If you live on a National Trust property, now is the time to make sure your "No Stag Hunting" notices are clean and legible. Or is it "Stag Hunting Encouraged"? Notices these days? Hard to remember. Whichever...

● Now is the time of year when mice start nesting in bigger kinds of gardening glove. Place a loaded mousetrap in every glove you keep in your garden shed.

● Drag your pond for dead herons.

You won't find any, but you will be surprised by what you will find. If you don't want to be surprised by what you will find, then don't.

● Now is the best time of year to plant fresh bulbs in your outdoor security lights.

● This is a good time to go out and fiercely cut back your leylandii trees.

● If you haven't got any leylandii trees, now would be a very good time to go out and fiercely chop back your neighbour's leylandii.

● If there aren't any leylandii trees in your neighbourhood, now would be a good time to take a chainsaw and go out in your pick-up truck in the surrounding countryside, chop-

ping down any leylandii you see.

● Did you remember to pick up all the dead fireworks from your garden after your bonfire party?

● Did you remember to have a bonfire party?

● Well, never mind, don't worry, because these days shops sell fireworks all the way up to the New Year. Bring home all those leylandii trees you've been collecting and have a great bonfire!

● Finally, have a good general clear-up and get rid of all rubbish such as old newspapers blowing round with headlines like "Local Police In Search For Maniac Leylandii Killer Now Suspect Sheep Farmer May Be Involved".



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## We must never forget how we are shaped by the past

MUCH OF Britain will fall silent at 11 o'clock this morning. If only for a couple of minutes, we will mark the hour of Armistice in 1918 with silence. We will remember all those who died in so many places, the names of which evoke shudders like half-forgotten nightmares: the Somme, Gallipoli, Ypres. And although Armistice Day is especially associated with the First World War, those who have died in other, more recent conflicts – the Second World War, Korea, Malaysia, the Falklands – will not be far from the thoughts of many.

Nor will such thoughts be idle matters, for there is another conflict, as yet unresolved, which demands attention: that in Northern Ireland. It is not fashionable in these ironic and cynical days to draw lessons from history. Fascinated with the latest scandal, natural disaster or war, we forget that our world has a history; everything around us has been shaped by the past.

This is apparent in the relations of a secularised and consumerist Britain with an Ireland much closer to its memories. British politicians have, in the past, adopted the pose of exasperated schoolmasters talking to squabbling children: they have not been helped by that subconscious claim on superiority.

There are signs that this is changing. Tony Blair will soon become the first British Prime Minister to address the Irish Parliament. Yesterday, the symbolism of Prince Philip's visit to Dublin was encouraging. He walked, perhaps, where the Queen will soon follow – and on ground lost to Britain in 1921. Such gestures are not meaningless. They are a vital part of establishing normal relations between neighbours, just as much as the removal of the Republic's constitutional claim on the North or the prospective cross-border bodies.

Irish and British history has been shared: those Irish volunteers from the South, who died in Belgium and France, died alongside their British comrades. Only once, on the Messines Ridge at Ypres, did they fight alongside their Northern, Protestant neighbours. But that is just as important historically as all the atrocities the two communities have inflicted on one another. The graves at Ypres are a symbol that Ireland can be shared by two traditions, who have sacrificed so much to a mutual hatred that need never have taken hold.

A similar symbol will be the presence of the Irish President and the British Monarch on the Messines Ridge. There, they will inaugurate a peace tower built by people from both sides of the border, and from both traditions. This will be another step towards reconciliation.

Today, we will remember. But the memories can be applied to our world of arms decommissioning and "confidence building". Remembering Messines should help to make sure that fewer brave young men die in the future.



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## Some welcome revision from Mr Blunkett

IN THEIR final guidelines on the teaching of primary school pupils, the Government has altered tack on homework. This can only be a good thing, since there was always a question mark over whether children as young as seven or eight could cope with 40 minutes of work per night, after coming home from school. Now the total for younger primary children has been pegged back to 20 minutes, the Government's policy seems much more realistic.

Homework is something of which everyone is in favour. There is no doubt that work in the evening can really boost children's performance in class. David Blunkett is rightly an apostle of learning at home. For years, schools' laissez-faire attitude to homework meant that more ambitious parents could secure an advantage for their offspring, buy-

ing up books and extra tuition so that their children could outstrip those from families who could not afford them. Many less advantaged children need the motivation of having their work looked at by their teachers, especially if the home environment is not conducive to study.

The homework clubs for which the Government has announced further Lottery funding – to the tune of £220m – are also a very good idea. Some children like studying somewhere with their friends; a supportive atmosphere, with some different teaching, does not seem quite so much like work as sitting alone with a book. Learning in that engaging atmosphere may be a way of interesting children. Setting up societies appended to football clubs should make those centres even more attractive. Encouraging parents, especially fathers, to read to children is also a helpful break with past indifference to such issues.

The Government is not retreating from its principles. The hours of homework it has set for secondary pupils will remain the same, vital if GCSE and A-level work is to be

properly considered and revised. But what the Government has realised is that there is no point overburdening very young children with too much work. It would be counterproductive to crush imaginations with written work and reading timetables, rather than allowing children and their parents to find their own way. British industry and society, as the Government has recently emphasised, has always been best in the creative and artistic fields. There should be no attempt to turn childhood into the "grey years" spent toiling in Japanese schools.

Too much work and too little imagination is the bane of our society. Our adult life is well on the way to US-style marriage to the job; it is at least questionable whether this has made Britain a more prosperous or happy place. There is no need to infect primary schools with this "work ethic". Mr Blunkett has recognised this, while still insisting on homework targets and standards, and pressing ahead with New Labour's more creative ideas. He should be praised for his willingness to listen.

## I will not be exterminated by the Daleks from Millbank

BY THE time you read this, the London Labour Party executive will have decided how to select their candidate for Mayor of London. As I write, all the indications are that they will establish a vetting panel to judge ideological suitability, thus opening the prospect of a long and damaging row.

Oddly enough, I believe that at yesterday's Downing Street briefing, Alastair Campbell told journalists that Tony Blair was opposed to any attempt to blackmail himself as a candidate. Although some wicked journalists have been implying that this is an attempt to provide a little cover in a difficult week, I can only proceed on the basis that my leader is telling the truth. He is, after all, "a pretty straightforward kind of guy". Perhaps, then, problems come from lower down the food chain.

The internal life of the Labour Party has been transformed. Discontent has slowly rolled around the country over the selection of our candidates for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and London Authority, and the European Parliament.

Most could have been avoided if it had not been for the Dalek faction of Labour's Millbank Tendency, whose self-appointed job it is to wage war on the ordinary party members. We have got to sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to actually win any of the devolved bodies over the next 18 months.

The central question for many party activists is that of why the system of One Member One Vote (OMOV) has been quietly dropped by the Labour Party, with barely a mur-

mur from the very people who pushed for it. From the late Eighties onwards OMOV was used by the "modernisers" against the trade unions' role in the Labour Party, and against the supposedly undemocratic influence of the activists. The Davros of Labour's Daleks is the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, once a left-wing organisation, now a front for lobbyists and apparatchiks, which tells us on its website that: "The principle of OMOV by postal ballot should be extended to elections for constituency officers, delegates to conferences and local government candidates."

Where are these advocates of OMOV now? The system for selecting the Euro-candidates meant that the selection of who will be on the list – and, crucially, at what place they were to be on the list – was done at the second stage by a joint panel of NEC members and regional representatives. Dennis Skinner and I proposed an amendment to these proposals at an NEC meeting several months ago that there should be an OMOV ballot to decide the ranking of the candidates at the final stage. No one else voted for it. Regardless of the rhetoric about giving power to the members instead of a "small activist and union-dominated committee", the NEC gave the decision to... a small activist-dominated committee.

At one of the last NEC meetings I attended before I was sent into exile, the outcome of this process was finally revealed. The bizarre selection system has led to a series of inexplicable decisions and genuine exasperation among party members. As *The Inde-*



KEN LIVINGSTONE

We must sort these nutters out before they undermine our attempts to win any of the devolved bodies

pendent pointed out yesterday, Christine Oddy MEP, a sitting Labour member in the West Midlands, has been placed in seventh place on a list of eight in her region. Under the closed list system, voters will have no chance to put her higher on the list, and unless Labour experiences its biggest ever landslide, she has no chance of finding her way back into the European Parliament.

Christine Oddy has been done over because she does not conform to the prescriptions of a few people sitting in a smoke-filled room. She is a left-winger. To add insult to injury, she will almost certainly go down to defeat while watching Michael Cashman, who has been parachuted into the region and straight into number two on the list, sail to victory. Why were the members not able to choose?

These manoeuvres are not merely designed to stifle the left. Take the example of Carole Tongue MEP, a senior and very popular member of Labour's European team, who was ranked by an NEC-London Labour Party panel in fifth place for the closed list system of election – again a position the party may struggle to win. The NEC insists that the final ranking was determined purely on the basis of a four-minute presentation and interview. The idea of relegating a senior and influential MEP on such a basis is frankly irresponsible. One member of the Greater London Labour Party regional board tried to pretend that this was not a demotion. The problem with that argument is that we can never know, because it was all done secretly.

If the situation with the European elections has not yet etched itself into the public's consciousness, the same cannot be said of the problems the control freaks are creating for themselves in Scotland, Wales and London. The paradox is that the Government seems willing to devolve power; but the party is not. Scottish MPs have been deemed unsuitable for the Scottish Parliament. Furthermore, the panel imposed to weed out candidates put just one ethnic minority candidate on the shortlist, and excluded prominent and well-respected women activists, giving the lie to the idea that only a centralised party can ensure the proper representation of women and black people.

The Scottish Commission for Racial Equality raised question marks over the poor representation of the

black communities, and the Scottish National Party had an easy time exploiting the whole process.

This is all just dreadful politics. Labour's election strategists must be able to see that this is not popular with the electorate. According to the polls, Rhodri Morgan is popular with the electorate, a situation reflected inside the party, where he would win under a One Member One Vote ballot to lead Labour in Wales.

A similar process has taken place in London. Under the PR system we are proposing for the London Assembly elections, Labour would have won 13 seats out of the 25 on the basis of the votes cast at the general election. Had Assembly votes been cast in the same proportions as at this May's local elections, Labour would have won 11 seats to the Tories' nine and the Liberals' five.

Personally I am in favour of Labour winning elections, which means selecting candidates from the widest and most representative pool, and taking the troops with you. It also means fighting your enemies and not constantly sowing the seeds of poor morale within your own ranks. I just wonder whether there are some extremists who would rather see Labour lose these elections than fight them with an ideologically impure candidate. Just for their information, I for one will not be exterminated easily. Just for your information, contrary to what disinformation may be spread in coming days, I will not be leaving Labour to stand as an independent. If I am carved up, I will stay inside the Labour Party and fight to reclaim it.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I went to see *Fatal Attraction*, I never believed it could ever happen to me."  
Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer and commentator

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."  
Albert Einstein, German physicist



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THEIR MEMORY deserves better than this mediocre display. The Chemin des Dames mutineers, already imprisoned in history, have now been taken hostage by polemic and snaggled by the cross-party cohabitation. Jospin gave homage to the men who were gunned down "to be made examples of" to the soldiers who, exhausted by their useless attacks, stood up against orders which were sheer madness – to the soldiers who were willing to

fight but unwilling to commit suicide. Jospin's initiative was welcomed by the French who had learned from school that these men were not mutineers, but rather martyrs. By judging Jospin's remarks as inappropriate, Chirac has committed a gross mistake for a state leader to make: that of not understanding the French.  
*Le Journal du Dimanche*

BETTER LATE than never: official France has begun to

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French opinion on Lionel Jospin's decision to pardon First World War mutineers

recognise that our official national history does not necessarily correspond with the truth. But we must continue this work on our memories and collective identity. Other taboos

still lurk which have not yet been shattered. Massacres of civilians by the French army at Setif and Madagascar after the Second World War; systematic torture during the war in Al-

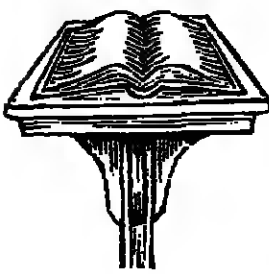
geria. There is clearly a lot of ground to cover before France can make peace with its past.  
*Le Monde*

WAS IT "inopportune" to recall this truth on the eve of Armistice? Should Jospin have waited until 12 November or 1 April to allude to it? Is Armistice a chance for us to exalt our courageous soldiers of yesterday or a time to reflect, with a minimum of dignity, on the shortsightedness and

stupidity of humankind and to pay homage to all those who suffered because of it? Who can be sure? Are we in danger that our leaders since the Sixties have been gorging on the grandeur and wealth of the Franco-German alliance? We condemn the untimely intervention of Chirac in questions of this genre. The collective memory does not belong solely to the President but, by definition, to all of us.  
*Liberation*



On the 80th anniversary of the Armistice, three very different views on how we should commemorate the victims of war



## PODIUM

EARL HAIG

From a speech by the 2nd Earl about his father, Field Marshal Haig, at the opening of an Armistice Day exhibition at Cambridge University

AMONG MY father's diaries there is the entry for 11 November 1918. It is clear that he had mixed feelings about the way things were handled by the French Marshal Foch. I quote: "At 5am the Armistice was signed. The Germans pointed out that if the rolling stock and supplies of the army (which had to be handed over by the terms of the Armistice) are given up, then the Germans east of the Rhine will starve. Report says that Foch was rather brutal to the German delegates and replies that that was their affair. We heard this morning that the Kaiser is in Holland."

"If the war had gone against us no doubt our King would have had to go and probably our army would have become insubordinate like the German army. Remember John Bunyan's remark on seeing a man on his way to be hanged - but for the grace of God, John Bunyan would have been in that man's place!"

My father wanted to insist on strong naval terms, but in other ways the Armistice was in his view too exacting. By hitting the Germans too hard we would build up resentment and the thirst for revenge. In 1922 Hitler proclaimed: "We do not pardon. No, we demand vengeance."

My father realised that a difficult economic climate in Germany would result in a breakdown of good government and the eventual introduction of the jackboot. He was a realist. He believed that it was an illusion to think that the German armed forces would not re-emerge and a war would not have to be fought again. Had the terms been more lenient the Germans might have evolved as a democratic power. There would have been no Holocaust, no bloodbath on the Russian front, no casualties in north Africa, no D-Day, no Singapore, no Pearl Harbor.

Looking back to the early years of my own generation, we were thankful for a few years of peace. We were ready to enjoy all the pleasures that came our way. When war came again our generation rose to the occasion and joined the colours.

My father was a strong leader. His leadership during the latter part of the war, and particularly in 1917 when we had to take the pressure off the French, was a big factor in the battles of 1918 which led to final victory... For that victory it was to all those who served with him that my father expressed gratitude. When he was congratulated he said "Don't congratulate me," pointing to a nearby soldier, "it is fellows like him who deserve congratulations."

## There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert



ROY HATTERSLEY  
Anything that makes the First World War seem noble mocks these men and their memory

IT WAS not much of a diary - a penny notebook fastened by elastic inside a cheap leatherette wallet that his sister Augusta had sent him in anticipation of his 17th birthday. But it began as English adventure stories have begun for 600 years: "Embarked for France."

Ten days later, Herbert Hattersley, Private 2042, the 1/7 Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, the Notts and Derby Regiment, "went to trenches with 1st Hampshire. Relieved after 24 hours. CV Shepherd killed by accident."

After that it was a litany of death. "Went up to trenches in motor buses, went to place where big advance was made, hundreds of dead lying on the ground."

Even when his friends were killed he made his entries with the same laconic brevity. "Our Division made an attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Jack Burton was killed on the same day. We were relieved from the trenches and went for a rest."

Only the final page records more than the bare facts. First it lists "battles since I arrived in France. Plugstreet, Kemel, Houge and Sanctuary Wood (all Ypres), Vielle Chapelle, Mont St Eloy." Then it repeats the story of how Jack Burton died.

"Jack was killed in a bayonet charge. I think that he was hit in the head by a piece of shell. He was 17

and a half when he first came to France. P.H. Timpson was killed trying to bury him."

It would be foolish to talk of premonitions. Bert had no time for anything so fanciful. He was a labourer in the packing department of a company, who had joined the territorial when he was barely 16, because a recruitment poster promised a fortnight's summer camp at "Fascinating Fley". And although his terms of engagement did not require him to serve abroad, he had volunteered for active service rather than risk the contempt

of his newly found comrades-in-arms. When he died on the Somme on 1 July 1916, he was not quite 19.

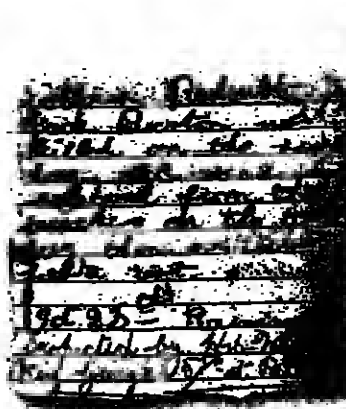
They found the diary in his billet in Bienvilliers. Folded inside were three letters from home. Bert's religious mother ended with a pious hope: "Bless you and may He send you safely home." My father, his 12-year-old brother, was infuriatingly philosophical: "I expect that you are sorry that you haven't had leave before now, but your turn will come." Augusta, who gave him the notebook and the wallet, told him that another brother, Leslie, "was giving Alice Smith the glad eye". The messages were all written in careful ink. Bert wrote in indecipherable pencil, turned blured and purple by the incessant rain.

It had rained for more than a week before the day of battle, and the downpour was more difficult to bear than the shelling. The Sherwood Foresters were wet in the trenches and wet in their dugouts. On the eve of the big push, they waded knee-deep through the mud of the supply trenches to their position 600 yards to the right of Gommecourt Wood. Bert, in C Company, was part of the third wave to go over the top. The official history describes it as being "virtually annihilated". The enemy machine-guns were trained on the gaps in the British barbed wire. The few men

who survived to advance into no man's land found that the Allied artillery bombardment had left the German wire intact, and they were caught like fish in a net. Of the 600 Sherwood Foresters who went into action, only 90 came out.

Bert's diary, in all its brief inadequacy, is not much of a record of the war in Flanders. But it leaves no doubt about the nature of the men who died like cattle, with only the monstrous anger of the guns for passing bells. Not for them the poetry of war - even if that, according to Wilfred Owen, is where the pity is to be found. Anything that makes the First World War seem like a noble enterprise mocks those men and their memory. They may not grow old as we who are left grow old. But, by God, they would have welcomed the chance.

It was on their behalf that I caused some mild offence at last week's Wilfred Owen Festival by suggesting that much of the poetry that was written about the First World War would best be forgotten. The early verse, with all the nonsense about death bringing "rarer gifts than gold" and dead clerks going "to join the men of Agincourt" are hideously unforgivable. But even the poems of compassion give the butchery a grace that it did not possess. Last week's Wilfred Owen Festival included a Shrewsbury



Private Herbert Hattersley (right) and a page from his diary



School production of *Journey's End* - one of the worst plays written between the wars, and a travesty of the suffering caused by the First World War.

Isaac Rosenberg is, perhaps, the one exception. But Rosenberg was a private soldier without misconceptions about some corner of a foreign field being forever England. The only possible defence of those who once harboured such notions is that their false romanticism provides consolation and catharsis for the next of kin. It is a treacherous sort of comfort, encouraging the belief that the sacrifice of 4 million was better than a sinful waste.

Bert's name is in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church in Nottingham and on the monument at Thiepval to the dead who have "no known resting place". But - now that the brother who urged fortitude and the sister who bought the notebook are dead - nobody remembers how he was in life. We do not know how he would have grown up. All that is left is a penny notebook in a leatherette wallet, and three letters. And unto those who would have been his sons, he gives his immortality? Forget the poetry. Remember the men who could not spell the names of the battles in which they fought and died.

## Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?

HAS REMEMBRANCE become an empty ritual? On this 80th anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918, the question needs to be addressed by anyone who is contributing to (and profiting from) the immense public interest in the First World War.

There are a lot of us at it. At least five new history books have been published in the past few weeks to coincide with the anniversary. And in many ways we historians are bringing up the rear. Novelists such as Pat Barker and Sebastian Faulks were quicker to tap into the public's surprisingly long-lived interest in the subject: surprising because so few people are still alive who actually remember the war.

I would be lying if I denied that I set out to publish a book about the First World War to coincide with today's anniversary. Quite apart from book sales, it seemed a good time to get people to think again about the war, as the media would be likely to give it more space than usual. As they have. But nothing quite prepared me for the scale of the coverage. Nor was I quite prepared for the rather eerie homogeneity of it all. A poppy on nearly every newspaper masthead (as well as on my own book jacket). Umpteen at the Cenotaph. The Queen Mother, red-eyed. Relatives of the men who were shot for cowardice. Frail old men in wheelchairs, sporting belatedly conferred medals from the French.

Interested historians (in both senses) such as myself and John



NIAL FERGUSON  
Nothing prepared me for the scale of the anniversary's coverage, nor its eerie homogeneity

Keegan have done our best to debate what the war was all about: why it started, why it dragged on, why it stopped. But I have the strange feeling that, for many people, our arguments are neither here nor there.

Remembrance, I have belatedly come to see, is not the same as understanding. Let me say right away that I do not for one second begrudge the British Legion the money they make from the sale of poppies. And I raise a glass to all those old men who are still going strong, having survived not only the trenches but everything else the 20th century has had to throw at them.

The most impressive thing about the survivors, it should be said, is their honesty about the experience. The most recent interviews I have heard or read testify once again to

the strange ambivalence of the men who fought the war - the odd mixture of understatement about its nastiness and nostalgia for the comradeship and even black comedy of Army life. As the veterans' most faithful recorder Lyn Macdonald recently remarked, the old soldiers very rarely use the word "horror".

The troubling thing for me is the difference between their remembering and our remembrance. What exactly are we, who are too young to have been involved in any way in the fighting or to have experienced the loss of close friends and relatives, really doing at Remembrance services?

A visit to the Imperial War Museum's current excellent exhibition on the history of remembrance sheds light on these questions. It is a very moving exhibition - there were certainly tears in my eyes as I read the letter one soldier wrote to his wife on the eve of a battle he did not expect to survive. But what makes it moving is principally the thought of others' private grief, and not the public paraphernalia of remembrance.

From the moment the war began, a huge number of people lost fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, boyfriends and friends. All told, the war claimed more than 9 million lives, more than one in every eight of the 65.8 million men who fought in it.

Such casualties naturally generated a huge quantity of private agony. The memoirs of those famous men who lost sons - one thinks of Rudyard Kipling - confirm the

universal truth that no pain equals the pain of losing a child.

To give a less famous example: Pte David Sutherland was killed during a raid on 16 May 1916, an ordinary Scottish squaddie. Faced with the doleful task of breaking the news to his parents, his platoon commander, Lt Ewart Macdonald, who had vainly carried him back across no man's land - wrote a poem. It is a very ordinary poem, to which none of the linguistic shock tactics of the war poets we revere today. Yet it is almost impossible to read it unmoved.

So you were David's father, And he was your only son, And the new-cut peats are rotting And the work is left undone,

Because of an old man weeping, Just an old man in pain, For David, his son David, That will not come again.

I find those lines almost unbearable. Yet it is worth recalling that David and his father were in a minority. "Only" around 12 per cent of British servicemen died in the war; leaving a good 88 per cent who (like my grandfather) came back alive, of whom only a minority were permanently incapacitated.

Moreover, because many men spent the war working on the home front, "only" 6 per cent of males between the ages of 15 and 49 were killed. Far from being intended to console the likes of David's father - what could? - the public rituals of remembrance devised after 1918 were primarily intended to communicate

this grief to those who had not lost relatives: for the lucky majority.

That was the point of Lutyens's Cenotaph, and of the thousands of local memorials erected around the country in the Twenties. That, too, was the point of the South African Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's suggestion that all Britain observe two minutes' silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day each November.

It was right, of course, to make the lucky majority mindful of the unlucky few. Yet from the outset there was (as there had been throughout the war) a simultaneous effort to justify what had happened, often using the "high diction" so loathed by Owen and Sassoon. Thus "the fallen" had "sacrificed themselves". Or, to quote from the tomb of the unknown soldier buried in Westminster Abbey they had died and given "the most that man can give himself for God for King and Country, for loved ones Home and Empire for the sacred cause of Justice and the Freedom of the World."

We can still hear similar sentiments expressed at Remembrance services today. And perhaps that is why I have become suspicious of them.

Eighty years on, I would like to think we have come far enough to question the reassuring assumption that the men who were killed in the First World War died for a good reason. I strongly doubt it.

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford. His book, *The Pity of War* is published by Penguin Books



G H Paulin sculpting the Beaumont Hamel memorial

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## ASTOUNDING DETAILS about the New Age lifestyle at the top of the New Labour establishment continue to reach Pandora's ears.

Most recently, a lady feng shui expert named Rosalyn Dexter was invited to inspect Nos 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street where she had tea and "chatted about my profession" with Murdoch Maclean, private secretary to the Government's Chief Whip. Feng shui aims to restore "harmony" in the home by taking into consideration architecture, decoration and furniture placement. Yesterday Dexter told Pandora that she wasn't paid for her "chat", but "I did make comments." She particularly enjoyed "sitting in Churchill's famous leather chair where I was able to quote his own feng shui remark." And what remark was that? "We shape our buildings, thereafter they shape us." Perhaps that explains all the fuss about the rivalry between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown earlier this year: they simply moved into the wrong houses!

HE MAY have a delicate touch in the kitchen, but the sense of humour of Marco Pierre White (pictured) can sometimes be as heavy-handed as a platter of Bavarian bratwurst. Take his new restaurant, set to open in the Regent Palace Hotel in a month's time, directly above

## PANDORA

Oliver Peyton's popular late-night basement brasserie, the Atlantic Bar & Grill. What has Marco chosen to name his new venture, where he will be trying to give Peyton a run for his money by offering "affordable glamour", a late licence, a night-clo, a bar and a restaurant, for around 600? He's calling it Titanic. According to Peyton's press spokesman, Elizabeth Crompton-Batt, "Oliver doesn't get upset about these things. Basically, his feeling is that, if that's what Marco wants to do, just let him get on with it." Marco's publicist on Titanic is Elizabeth's ex-husband, Alan Crompton-Batt. He told Pandora yesterday that Marco "believes the Titanic will be his iceberg during the coming recession". Providing, of course, Peyton's Atlantic doesn't swallow it first.

YOU CAN scoff at the House of Lords, but then a moment comes along that makes you wonder how

we could ever do without the old duffers. Such a moment arrived recently when the following question was addressed to Her Majesty's Government: "Whether they will ensure that the Ministry of Defence uses both to explain its policy on unidentified flying objects and to provide a facility for the public to report sightings is turned on at all times and not switched off outside working hours." Scoff if you want, but you'll be deriding Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, one of this nation's foremost military minds and former Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Nato Military Committee. He must know something.

JEFFREY ARCHER has made no secret of his admiration for New York City's tough-guy

Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Now surely he will be joined by all British politicians when they read the following answer Giuliani gave to a journalist who dared to ask if he would be taking a post-election day holiday with his wife and kids. "I think that's an insulting question. It's not your business the amount of time I spend with my children and my wife," Rudy snapped. "My private life is my private life and you should stay out of it."

IT WOULD be a slight exaggeration to report that Pandora has been overwhelmed by callers offering vital clues about the Tom Cruise lookalike lurking around Blockbuster video shops. However, one young woman in Milton Keynes, an avid fan of Tom Cruise who begged for anonymity lest her fiancée take umbrage, telephoned Pandora yesterday. "This is almost the worst news I've ever heard," Pandora attempted to quell her anxiety, but the woman became even more emotional. "What if, say, Tom has been hijacked and replaced by this bloody lookalike? Poor Nicole: is she sure the man she calls her husband is not some little impostor?" All the more reason for readers to send information they may have to The Hunt for the Tom Cruise Lookalike, c/o Pandora.

Ch 11/10/98



# Ignore the hysteria over debt



**DIANE COYLE**  
*The argument about debt relief is separate from the emergency needs of Central America*

THERE ARE few problems whose solutions seem absolutely clear-cut, so what an enjoyable luxury it is when one comes along. Cancel the repayments of international debt owed by hurricane-blighted Honduras and Nicaragua? Surely it defies common sense for these two countries to be paying \$1.3m (\$800,000) a day to their bankers while at the same time they are in desperate need of aid to tackle their catastrophe?

This is a bandwagon everybody can jump on. And so everybody has. France and Germany have leapt behind Britain in a call for debt relief. Gordon Brown and Clare Short yesterday announced a new fund to help Honduras and Nicaragua meet their international interest payments, putting in £10m from the British taxpayer, and making up for Ms Short's politically inept insistence last week that the debt question is irrelevant at a time like this.

Yesterday, the World Bank announced it had already found an extra \$100m in aid and would make sure that debt repayments did not get in the way of tackling the emergency. The need to be seen to do something about debt has rocketed up the international agenda.

Yet this time, as so often before, Ms Short's real mistake was to voice an uncomfortable truth that went down very badly indeed with the highly effective aid organisations lobbying for debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Emergency assistance was never going to be hamstrung by debt – but the hurricane has been hijacked by campaigners for debt relief.

The Jubilee 2000 coalition, calling for the cancellation of Third World debt for the new millennium, has helped to push a reluctant international community into setting up a much-needed programme of debt reduction for desperately poor countries. This plan to reduce the repayments to the IMF and World Bank by up to 40 countries to a level they can realistically afford finally got the go-ahead in 1996. While the UK was always in favour, other governments from the Group of Seven needed persuasion. The programme imposes tough conditions on the borrowers, but without the efforts of the campaigners there would not be any debt relief at all.



Are these Nicaraguan farmers helped in the rebuilding of their country by the writing off of international debt?

The aid groups are now using their moral authority, backed by the television pictures of awful suffering, to push for more. They have been aided by the slow and niggardly response of Western governments to the present crisis. But the argument about debt relief is genuinely an issue that is separate from the emergency needs of Central America.

There is no excuse for a wave of hysteria that exploits the death and hardship there to gloss over the fact that there are grounds for debate on debt relief.

There is, in fact, a very strong case to be made for greater generosity on the part of the leading economies and the IMF towards countries labouring under a burden of debt payments. These interest charges eat into the funds available for health and education, yet they were in many cases inherited from onerous regimes that squandered loans on guns and palaces. The most glaring examples must be the likes of Zaire's President

Mobutu, and the Burmese military regime. The rich countries have had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the "highly indebted poor countries" (HIPC) initiative, forgiving payments on such odious debts. For little extra cost to their own budgets, they could have been far more generous about the terms of the debt relief and the speed at which it is applied. More important, they could have admitted that Western policy mistakes had played a part in creating the debt overhang.

However, meagre as it is, there is now a framework for lifting the burden on the countries most in need and least able to pay. Crucially, it insists that governments must run sensible economic policies and earmark the extra money for social spending in order to qualify. In other words, the IMF and other lenders are avoiding their past mistake of lending money with no questions asked about how it is used.

Nicaragua and Honduras are both on the list of the three dozen countries that will eventually bene-

fit from the programme. The floods will, without any doubt, increase and speed up the amount of debt relief they will receive. There is simply no need for a new international initiative for this to happen.

Even so, you may object, how can it make sense for the two countries to continue with the repayments in the meantime, when their governments are badly in need of funds now? But this is a no-brainer only if you believe that the emergency overrides all other obligations. After all, there is nothing inherently illogical about paying money out on the one hand and receiving it with the other. We all do that when we pay our mortgage and at the same time bank our salaries. What matters is how all the flows of money net out.

As it happens – uncomfortably for the debt relief lobby – Nicaragua and Honduras have in recent years received more than they have paid out in interest. New flows have come in even as they have made repayments on old debts.

In 1996, Nicaragua received a net \$669m, compared to its interest payments of \$87m. Honduras paid out a net \$37m but was in previous years a recipient of new international funds. Both countries are due for debt relief under the HIPC plan, Nicaragua after next year, Honduras after 2001. The delay is caused by the requirement that they build a record of effective economic policies, but their qualifying date will almost certainly be brought forward following the emergency.

Beneath the headlines and hysteria, there is a fundamental disagreement between the campaigners and the world's rich governments. The latter, although now eagerly calling on each other to do more in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, do not believe in wiping the slate clean on past debts. They argue that this would remove any incentive for borrowers to run their economies well, would raise a question mark over the repayment of future debts, and would discourage private investors from lending

money to the world's poorest countries in the future.

The Jubilee 2000 campaigners want to see the old debts cancelled altogether. Certainly, it is hard not to sympathise with their outrage at the thought of governments which cannot afford simple health and schooling for their people having to repay hundreds of millions of dollars to the very richest governments in the world. The people are being made to pay with their life and health for the past follies of their leaders.

It is a genuine debate about how best to get to a future in which the quality of life of the world's poor reaches an acceptable standard, where clean water, housing, basic health care and education – the minimum necessary for human dignity – are available for all.

There are pros and cons on both sides of the argument, pitting realism against compassion. It would be a pity if the debate were to be drowned in a wave of publicity-generating hysteria.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

BARONESS JAY



The Minister for Women answers our critical leading article about the Women's Unit

YOUR ASSESSMENT of the role of the Women's Unit revealed a depressing tendency to read no further than the headlines.

Your leader agrees that young women face more problems than ever before. There is also no doubt that teenage girls often fail to live up to their potential. We owe it to them to find out more about why this happens and to introduce policies that tackle the problem. Highlighting the achievement of successful women, who may or may not be celebrities, can help young women to achieve more. We are not trying to impose role models on anyone. That would be not only patronising, but self-defeating.

We don't claim to have all the answers. We know the world of today's young women is far removed from that of 20 or 30 years ago. We need to know more about their aspirations and expectations, and the barriers to achieving them. It is why, over the next few months, Tessa Jowell and I will be travelling around the country talking to young women themselves and to those close to their world.

By way of questioning the role of the Women's Unit, you list appreciatively a whole raft of measures introduced by this government to improve the lives of women – the national child care strategy, the working families' tax credit, increasing child benefit.

I am glad you recognise the achievements of this government. I only wish you understood that the role of the Women's Unit is precisely to help shape these policies. That is exactly what the Unit has done – and will continue to do.

I, too, am not interested in tokenism or gimmicks. The Government was elected to create a decent society, one in which everyone has the opportunity to reach their potential. Policies that are better for women are better for all.

## Wild child who taught us to cook

ELIZABETH DAVID was 20 before she learnt how to make a cup of tea, and at about the same time her first attempt to cook lunch for herself resulted in a plateful of burnt onions. This was not surprising. Born in 1913, she came from the kind of English upper-middle-class family background that had nourished generations of kitchen staff, and for most of whose members cookery was a closed book.

The way to the kitchen, for those not themselves from the serving classes, was paved with social qualms. Her achievement was to change all that – partly in an access of outrage brought on by the terrible food of her childhood ("mutton and beef... boiled potatoes... slippery and slimy... greasy... stodgy"), and partly as a consequence of certain upheavals of the mid-century, including the Second World War.

It was some time before Elizabeth David lighted on her métier, but it was plain from the start that this spirited second daughter of a Conservative MP named Rupert Gwyne and a titled lady from Northumberland was destined



### WEDNESDAY BOOK

ELIZABETH DAVID: A BIOGRAPHY  
LISA CHANEY, MACMILLAN, £20

to make a mark in one of the professions. Among her inherited traits were a streak of aristocratic eccentricity and a full measure of Gwynne-Ridley pig-headedness. Thwarted in her ambition to be an actress (she wasn't good enough), she followed her nose to the South of France, setting sail in 1939 in a boat called the *Esperanza* with her then lover, Charles Gibson Cowan – a flamboyant actor, writer and one-time tramp, about whom her family took a predictably snooty tone.

Truly, it was not an auspicious moment to leave the country. War broke out and the pair were stranded for a time on the Riviera before getting away via Corsica, Italy (where a night's imprisonment awaited them) and a Greek island, and ending up in Cairo.

There Elizabeth found work as a *Mixarian* with the Ministry of Information. By the end of the war she had met and fallen under the spell of her mentor, Norman Douglas, enjoyed the expatriate sociability of Egypt and married an Army officer named Tony David, spending time with him in India before returning to an England ripe for the new gospel of gourmandism. A culinary prodigy was about to be born.

There's an Auden line about the impulse of "palid" northerners, gastronomic ignoramuses, to take themselves "southwards into a sun-burnt otherworld". A Mediterranean abundance and Epicureanism seemed the perfect antidote to listless post-war England with its rationing and other deprivations. Elizabeth David's earliest writings capitalised on the glamour of a garlic, olive and aubergine, sun-drenched repertoire. There is no doubt that she almost single-handedly revolutionised concepts of cooking and eating in the middle of this century, first by lauding the dishes of France and Italy with their enticing piquancy and unadulterated ingredients, then by rediscovering an all-but-lost English tradition of wholesomeness and seasonal variation.

It was not only her recipes that got an entire generation of would-be culinary sophisticates scurrying about in search of fresh wild thyme or black truffles, but her whole evocative, erudite and urbane approach to the business. Even those, like the late Angela Carter, who let David's "magisterial hauteur" get up their noses acknowledge her primacy among cuisine commentators. Just when it looked as though it might be discarded altogether, as convenience foods became available, she reinstated the middle-class stove.

About half-way through this exuberant biography of Elizabeth David, the life story takes a back seat. The culinary accomplishments, the

journalism, the *Book of Mediterranean Food*, *French Provincial Cooking*, the establishment of – and quarrels over – the Elizabeth David shops, and so on, all take over. Lisa Chaney goes about her work in a capable, though rather showy, manner, cramming in as much social and historical detail as she can muster. A pity, though, that she allows so many prominent figures in the David story to remain shadowy and vague.

It's a colourful life, what with its enlightened hedonism, sexual escapades, pioneering itineraries and strength of will, but it looks as though we shall have to wait for the authorised version by Artemis Cooper (due next September) to have a few of the outlines filled in. One thing we do learn: if Elizabeth David had a reputation for being a bit high-handed, this may be traced back to a misprint in her first book, published in an era of paucity and austerity. What should have read as a simple instruction – "Take 2 to 3 eggs" – came out as, "Take 23 eggs", no doubt to the alarm of its earliest readers.

PATRICIA CRAIG



Elizabeth David wrote partly in rebellion against terrible food in her childhood

### WEDNESDAY POEM

AUGUST 1914  
BY ISAAC ROSENBERG

What in our lives is burnt  
In the fire of this?  
The heart's dear granary?  
The much we shall miss?

Three lives hath one life –  
Iron, honey, gold.  
The gold, the honey gone –  
Left is the hard and cold.

Iron are our lives  
Molten right through our youth.  
A burnt space through ripe fields  
A fair mouth's broken tooth.

From 'Poems of the Great War,  
1914-1918' (Penguin, £2.99)

£2  
off every  
book  
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Every single book  
costing £15 or more has £2 off in  
Dillons until November 21st.

d  
DILLONS  
THE FOODISTS



# Rumer Godden

RUMER GODDEN survived a poisoning attempt, rare illnesses, the death of a baby son, abandonment by her first husband and destitution, in the course of a writing career that spanned more than 60 years.

The prolific novelist, playwright and poet – best known for *Black Narcissus* (1938), *The River* (1946) and *The Greening Summer* (1958), all of which were made into successful films, was writing almost to the end. Her last book, *Cromartie vs The God Shiva*, was published earlier this year, when she was 90.

Born in 1907 in her uncle's house in Eastbourne, Sussex, "Peggy" (as she was known) spent her childhood until the age of 12 in India, in the town of Narayanpuri, now in Bangladesh. Her father controlled the traffic – the jute barges and paddle steamers – on the inland waterways around the town. The family lived in a vast mansion with each room as big as a ballroom, staffed by many servants.

It was a childhood rich in sights, sounds and, particularly, smells: "the smells of urine and sewage and the lovely flowers of the thorn trees," she wrote later.

She was the second eldest of four daughters and felt ignored. According to her account, her eldest sister Jon (Jonquil) was beautiful and talented, her younger sister Nancy was her father's favourite and Rose was the beloved baby.

"I showed off like anything," Godden said, "but no one took any notice of me. I was so plain. It was hell being so close to Jon, but I lived in her shadow and that was the saving grace for me. To be ignored is the best possible thing for a writer. My writing was an effort to outdo her."

Ironically, Jon became a writer too and the two sisters collaborated on several books. Rumer commented: "There are two schools of thought: one that she was a better writer than me – that's the family point of view. And there are others who think I'm the professional one. Jon, you see, married a rich man. I'm a great believer in the garret."

At the age of seven Godden fell off a swing and damaged her spine, an injury that inhibited her physically throughout her life. Although she was envious of Jon, they were also very close. They were sent back to England together after the First World War to be educated at a high Anglican convent in East Grinstead. "It was a horrid shock to send us



there," Godden recalled, "a cruel and thoughtless thing to do and an absolute betrayal on the part of my parents."

They stayed six weeks before being moved to another four schools in succession, after which the two girls were separated. Jon went to art school and Rumer, out from her sister's shadow, for the first time "felt like a personality in her own right."

She returned to India aged 17. She had always wanted to be a writer – she used to hide her poems in the old cork tree on the lawn at Narayanpuri. She had trained as a dancer, however, and now shocked local society by opening a dance school, the Peggy Godden School of Dance, in Calcutta.

Already inclined to be rebellious, her rebellion had been further fuelled by reading *A Passage to India* when she was 19. It made her, she wrote, ashamed of her "blindness and ignorance."

"When I was a child the old shibboleth still prevailed that the men had contact with all the Indians but the women and children were not supposed to mix. We were not allowed to play with Indian children, nor they with us. *A Passage to India* made me see we were like the Turtons. After that I astonished my father and mother by insisting that I had lessons in Hinduism and was allowed to visit Indians and speak to them."

In 1933 she met Laurence Sinclair Foster, an athletic charmer. She became pregnant by him and they married in 1934. The baby died four days after birth. She called that "a piercing grief, a sadness I carry with me for the rest of my days". Although they went on to have two daughters,

Jane and Paula, the couple had nothing in common: Godden loved literature; Foster, she said, thought Omar Khayyam was a curio.

Her first novel, a children's book, was published in 1935 when she was 28. She had already had the germ of an idea for an "adult" novel, *Black Narcissus*, several years earlier when, on a picnic in Assam she saw a small tombstone for a nun who had died at the same age as she then was. Published in 1938, *Black Narcissus* immediately became a best-seller.

It was later made into a very successful film by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, which she disliked. Most of it was shot in a Surrey garden, the Himalayas represented by poles wrapped in muslin. "I saw it only once but never again. It is an absolute travesty of the book. I cannot bear it. Micky Powell said he saw it as a fairy tale, whereas for me it was true. The whole thing was an abomination."

In 1941 Godden's husband abandoned her, to join the Army, leaving her with massive debts which she settled with the proceeds from *Black Narcissus*. She spent the war in Kashmir with her young children living as a peasant in a house without water or electricity. There, having recovered from a serious illness, she tried to establish a herb farm. A friend moved in, bringing a homicidal Indian cook with a speciality in preying upon European women, who put opium, marijuana and ground glass into their food, but only succeeded in killing the pet dog.

Godden moved back to England with her daughters in 1945 and set about making her living as a writer. She married again in 1949, this time to a civil servant, James Haynes-

*'All these young people, particularly women, say, "We want to express ourselves", but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows'*

Dixon who adored her. "It is very wonderful," she said in an interview last year, "to be loved and James was practically perfect. He would do anything for me, but it was not the other way round you see. I don't think I ever fell for any real man, not after Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*. I've read the book over a dozen times and every time I fall in love with

growing up, growing out of, growing away from, and all the sadness that accompanies this". Although she had declared she would never let one of her novels be filmed again after her experience with *Black Narcissus*, she spent two years working with Jean Renoir on the film of *The River* (1951), her autobiographical novel about her childhood in India.

She moved house often. She lived for a while in Highgate, in north London (Margaret Rutherford lived upstairs) then in Henry James's house, Lamb House, in Rye, East Sussex (and claimed to hear the voices of Miles and Flora, the children in *Turn of the Screw*, when she was writing). This prompted the joke: "Who has Lamb House now?" "Rumer has it."

She converted to Roman Catholicism in 1968, having become friendly with the writer Dame Felicitas Corrigan, a Benedictine nun at Stanbrook Abbey, in Worcestershire. "I think nuns are irresistibly dramatic," she said. "Theirs is the greatest love story on earth."

Her husband James died in 1975. In her diary Godden wrote: "I never want to be consoled. I never want another man in my life." In 1977 she moved to Scotland to live with her daughter Jane and continued to write. She was appointed OBE in 1983 and in 1994 returned to India for the first time in 20 years to make a documentary about her life and work for the BBC. It was not an altogether happy experience.

Discussing writing, she once stated firmly that she never believed in self-expression. "All these young people, particularly women, say, 'We want to express ourselves', but writing is not self-expression. The writer is simply an instrument through which the wind blows and I believe it is the Holy Spirit that makes the artist creative. My

writing is something outside me that I've been chosen to do and I think that is what has enabled me to go on."

She had not been frightened of dying since she was a young child: "I used to cry at night because I was afraid my mother or Jon would die. Once I was weeping so much my mother was brought from dinner. She said, 'We cannot understand what is going to happen to us after death in much the same way that if we told a two-month-old baby that we were going to take it to America, the baby wouldn't have the faintest idea of what we were talking about.' And that is how I think of death. We have no idea at all of what is going to happen to us."

PETER GUTTRIDGE

*Margaret Rumer Godden, writer: born Eastbourne, Sussex; 10 December 1907; OBE 1983; married 1934 Laurence Sinclair Foster (marriage dissolved 1948; died 1977; two daughters); 1949 James Haynes-Dixon (died 1975); died Dumfries 8 November 1998.*

## Paul-Annik Weiller

THERE WERE 25 square metres of flowers at the funeral of Paul-Annik Weiller in Geneva last week. Friends flew from as far as Mexico and Florida, while Servette, the football club he saved for Switzerland, was there in force. Much-loved and highly successful international businessman, he succeeded in remaining largely unknown to the world's press or public.

Weiller faced a life full of challenges with courage and considerable ingenuity, while remaining a man of charm and modesty, about whom I never heard an unkind word said. His early life was difficult. Paul-Annik was the product of the uncomfortable union between two extraordinary people.

His father, Commandant Paul-Louis Weiller, was one of the most enigmatic men of the 20th century, a man of determination and dynamism, who employed 20th-century inventions and business techniques to create a life that many compared to the court life of the great French kings. Indeed, Greta Garbo called him "Paul-Louis Quatorze". He was an industrialist from Alsace, who became a flying ace in the First World War, administrator of the Société Générale et Rhône (an aero-engine company employing more than 10,000 men), a pioneer in the field of civil aviation (his airlines were subsumed into Air France on nationalisation in 1933), a political prisoner in the Second World War, and later munificent patron for charity and "meccas of the arts. A man who continued to work past his 100th birthday, he amassed an immense fortune, and yet, in his lifetime, avoided the publicity that attended his peers – Aristotle Onassis, Stavros Niarchos and Paul Getty.

Paul-Annik's mother was a Greek beauty queen, Aliki Diplarakis, first spotted by the Commandant in 1931 when she came to Paris to represent her country in a "Miss Europe" contest. He fell in love with her, courted her with every resource available, flowers and jewels, and placed his arms and private aeroplane at her disposal. Overcoming parental disapproval due to her extreme youth, he made her his second wife in 1932,

and she found herself hostess to Parisian luminaries such as Anna de Noailles and Jean Giraudoux. Paul-Annik was the only son of the marriage, born in Paris in 1933.

The all-consuming business interests of Paul-Louis, matched only by his smothering devotion to his wife, did not make for happiness. When the war began and he realised that he was in danger of arrest, he sent mother and son first to Biarritz and Lisbon and then to the United States. He himself was imprisoned

*His father amassed an immense fortune. It is a daunting assertion that, by the time Paul-Louis died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two*

in France, but eventually escaped to Cuba, attempting to join his wife in New York. He reached Canada in 1943, but at this point she divorced him in Reno. Many bitter years followed, during which, it must be said, the Commandant never ceased to adore her.

In 1945 Paul-Louis went to New York and settled at the Plaza on East 58th Street, while Aliki and Paul-Annik were living on East 58th. They promptly left for England, where presently she married a young diplomat, John Russell, who rose to be ambassador in Ethiopia, Brazil and Spain.

Paul-Annik was raised in French until he was seven, learned Greek from his mother and English in

America. He began his schooling at Buckley in New York, only spending holidays with his father in Canada. Then he went to St Edmund's School, near Guildford in England, where he was a ward of the British court. In 1948 his father won an action and placed him in the prestigious Ecole des Roches in Normandy. His father drove him hard, withdrawing pocket money if his results were unsatisfactory. The short fall was invariably made up by a kind housekeeper. In 1953 he was inscribed in the Paris lycée Louis-le-Grand, where he studied the arts in defiance of his father, who was determined he should read engineering.

In 1954 Paul-Annik attained his majority and instantly escaped from this authoritarian regime by secretly embarking on the *Queen Mary* for the States. Of his own free will, he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, studying engineering for two years, working 70 hours a week. He refused any financial support from his father, living off a modest inheritance from an aunt. This was a major rebellion and effectively made Paul-Annik his own man. It also won the approval of his father, and even more so when he defied parental fears by earning his diploma with a high pass mark.

In 1957 he undertook military service as a pilot in the French Air Force, serving in the Algerian war. He notched up a remarkable 1,000 flying hours and was decorated for valour. This achieved, he went to Munich, where his father had an interest in a chain of service stations, anticipating the arrival of the major oil companies from the US. Again defying his father's prognostications, he achieved great success, reselling the filling stations not for their real estate value but for the cash-flow achieved by the gallons sold. The service stations were in due course sold with considerable profit as two networks to Gulf Oil and Getty Oil.

Following this, Paul-Annik became a businessman independent of his father. The rivalry between them was a driving force and it was Paul-Annik's victory that he held his father's respect without becoming his cypher.

Some years ago I advanced the theory to Lady Diana Cooper that he may have been a greater businessman than his father. She asked the Commandant, who replied mischievously: "Ah! That I don't know. When he is needing money, he comes to Papa!" The reality was that any deal made with his father was on strictly business terms.

Paul-Annik's empire included a car-wash business that he started in Germany in 1965, backing an inventor whose system was so sound that it is still used today. Combining a sound knowledge of the engineering side with a flair for real estate, he extended this enterprise into 12 countries and licensed it in Japan. His other endeavours included substantial development and investment in telecommunications, solar energy, a vast train-wash business, and property. For seven years he was a main board director of GEC.

He established the equivalent of the Rejact China Shop, La Porcelaine Blanche, in Germany, and acquired the franchise for the Wendy Hamburger chain in Switzerland. Paul-Annik was a workaholic like his father, thinking nothing of rising at 5am and those who preferred to arrive in their offices at a more respectable hour invariably started their working day attending to a barrage of faxes that had arrived before the sun. It is asserted, and it is a daunting assertion, that, by the time his father died at the age of 100 in 1993, Paul-Annik's empire was the larger of the two.

Besides his numerous business endeavours, he ran a number of charitable institutions and continued the work of restoration on fine buildings in Paris begun by his father. He was well-read, played the piano superbly, was a keen tennis-player and loved football. This last love caused him in 1991 to buy Servette, the Geneva football club that had fallen into debt. He introduced three world-class players and in 1994 they won the Swiss Championships. The club revived, the players were sold on, and the team is in good spirits and thriving once more. To them he was a hero, and in 1994 he was carried shoulder-high round the arena.



Paul-Louis Weiller, right, a holder of the Grand Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honour, investing his son Paul-Annik as a Chevalier of the order in 1993

His aim was solely to create a much-needed impetus for the young of Geneva. Now they have 70 youngsters in training.

Furthermore, he associated all the small local teams in Geneva with Servette, allying a further 700 young club players to the larger club. Talent scouts watched them regularly

and there were many opportunities for promotion. He also founded a football magazine, *Match Mag*. When Paul-Annik stepped down, the television channel Canal + took over and continued all his schemes.

In 1985 Paul-Annik Weiller married a beautiful Italian princess, Olimpia Torlonia, granddaughter of

Queen Ena of Spain, herself a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. The prospect of this union delighted his father for dynastic reasons, but his first question to the young bride was suitably disconcerting: "You are Italian. Can you cook pasta?"

Olimpia was as sweet-natured as she was beautiful and she and Paul-Annik were profoundly happy. They had six children between the years 1967 and 1985, two of whom died young. They divided their time between Geneva, France and Italy.

The first time I met Paul-Annik was at a daunting lunch in Versailles in 1984. The gathering included some distinguished Frenchmen, who had spent part of their youth at the Commandant's South of France villa, La Reine Jeanne. I had been bidden to write the history of this villa. Paul-Annik asked me how I was getting on, and in turn I asked him if he had any advice. "Certainly," he replied. "If I was you, I'd jump out of the window." He added: "You won't do yourself any harm, we are on the ground floor."

For all the drive and energy he had inherited from the father, he wore it lightly. He was less intense, kinder and more sensitive. Physically a huge, powerful man, he was essentially gentle. He possessed an abundance of charm and a highly developed understanding of his fellow men.

In September 1994, almost a year after his father's death, he presided over the wedding at Versailles of his daughter Sihilla to Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg. It was a magnificent occasion, attended by a king, five queens and an empress and 1,500 guests. Outside the cathedral, as the bride couple stepped out into the sunlight, the photographers shouted "Ici la mariée" or "Presses de la France". When they then shouted "Alléluia!", most of the congregation looked round.

HUGO VICKERS

*Paul-Annik Weiller, businessman: born Paris 28 July 1933; married 1965 Olimpia Torlonia (four daughters, and one son and one daughter deceased); died Geneva 2 November 1998.*



## Martin Eve

MARTIN EVE was a remarkable figure in post-war British publishing. He founded the Merlin Press in 1956 when he published G.B. Chambers's *Folk-song Plain-song* on the origins of English folk-song, and worked continuously for Merlin until the week of his death.

Eve is probably best known for the books he published by the historian E.P. Thompson. Eve and Thompson enjoyed a lifelong friendship, which began at Cambridge, where Eve, an alumnus of Winchester Cathedral Choir School and the then progressive Bryanston, read History at Corpus Christi College. They had both served in the Second World War (Thompson in the Army in Italy, Eve in the Navy – he was present at D Day), and they returned to undergraduate studies filled with inspiration from their wartime experience. They were young men committed to building a better future, and like many of their generation they joined the Communist Party.

With Thompson and others Eve participated enthusiastically in volunteer brigades working to rebuild Yugoslavia. This led to an enduring interest in the Balkans and perhaps somewhat shaped him as a "partisan" – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment that summed up so much of what he did.

After Cambridge Thompson joined the extra-mural department at Leeds University, and Eve went into publishing. He worked initially as a rep in the West Country for Michael Joseph and then carried the list in central London. It was a natural step for Eve to start his own list.

The year of 1956 was a momentous one for him. The Merlin Press began publishing in the spring, in September his political world was rocked by the Soviet Union's invasion of Hungary. A large group of dissenters, including Eve, left the Communist Party and joined the loose association known as the "New Left". Thompson eloquently expressed the new movement's open-minded views and its support for democratic socialism.

Eve published a series of books from the New Left in the late Fifties and early Sixties, most notably the work of George Lukács, the Hungarian critic and philosopher, and *The Socialist Register*, edited by Ralph Miliband and John Saville – "a survey of movements and ideas". The Register was first published in 1964; it became a key forum for the Left, and has published continuously since.

Eve was a man of broad interests and entrepreneurial flair. In the 1960s he teamed up with the BBC producer Hugh Burnett to publish the Monk cartoon books that made a substantial contribution to Merlin's turnover at the end of each year. Eve published numerous

books on English history, initiating a distinguished historical reprint series, and he also secured the English rights to much of Stendhal's work. This is to say nothing of the sailing imprint "Seafarer Books" that latterly became a major part of Merlin's publishing activities.

Brought up on the rivers of England's east coast (his father, a proficient yachtsman, had retired to Orford in Suffolk, to run the Butley Oysterage), Eve had inherited a love of the sea and sailing. In his own inimitable way he combined all these elements in his work, and would regularly take landlubbing booksellers, publishers and political enthusiasts for a weekend's sailing on his beloved Privateer. He sailed across to Copenhagen and Amsterdam on visits to booksellers. Eve wrote a charming account of his and his family's adventures with Privateer

*His work in Yugoslavia after the war perhaps shaped him as a 'partisan' – a word of defiance, comradeship and commitment which summed up much of what he did*

in *An Old Gaffer's Tale* (1984), his own contribution to the Seafarer list.

In the mid-Seventies, typically canny and in advance of the Yuppie invasion, Eve secured the freehold of a building on the Isle of Dogs where he published and warehoused the books, and took on distribution of other lists, notably Monthly Review Press and the distinguished American reprint list August M. Kelley. These were successful times for Merlin. Edward Thompson was in a prolific phase of writing and campaigning. Eve reissued in 1977 his marvellous biography of William Morris and published a series of his polemical essays – *The Poverty of Theory* (1978), *Writing by Candlelight* (1980) and *Zero Option* (1982).

The spread of a new political culture in the late Sixties had led to a proliferation of radical publishers and booksellers. Merlin was joined by NLB/Verso, Pluto, Writers and Readers, Journeyman Press etc – lists whose ti-



Eve founded the Merlin Press in 1956 and ran it until his death

ties sold well in campus bookshops and in the growing number of independent radical bookshops. Eve was a member of a different generation to those he perhaps regarded as the tyros of '68 but he was always willing to offer advice and guidance, and through the Merlin Press provided a bridge into much mainstream publishing of the time.

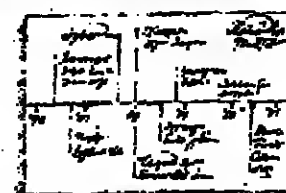
Eve's engaging manner and quick mind made him a successful salesman (I was always amazed at the orders he could bring back from a bookshop), a fine publisher and a great companion. He also had a fierce determination, which sustained him through all the political, publishing and business challenges he faced – and latterly in the face of severe illness and disability. Following the diagnosis of cancer in 1986 he showed extraordinary will power and courage in facing his growing incapacity, undergoing a series of treatments, and yet continuing to run his publishing business,

and surviving withdrawal from an unsuccessful partnership with another publisher. Through all this he was unstintingly supported by his wife Pat.

He published for over 40 years and has left his mark through the Merlin Press. He began when publishing houses and firms embodied their owners' enthusiasms and when imprints had clear eponymous identities – a different world from today when lists are bought and sold as branding shells for some new corporate initiative. He was working right up to his death, preparing the new *Socialist Register* for the printers, and taking steps to ensure the press's continuity.

DAVID MUSSON

Martin Weston Eve, publisher, born London 22 June 1924; married 1949 Betty Crawford (two sons, one daughter; marriage dissolved, 1981 Pat Kilshaw; died Woodbridge, Suffolk 26 October 1998.



## HISTORICAL NOTES

MARK BOSTRIDGE

## Hero of the Somme fatally outed

WRITING *Testament of Youth*, her account of her First World War experiences in which she served as a VAD nurse and lost the four men closest to her, Vera Brittain three years. Much of the book is based on Brittain's own diaries and her letters of the time, especially her correspondence with her fiancé, Roland Leighton, and with her younger brother, Edward.

Edward Brittain had become a family hero after he was awarded the Military Cross for his part in his battalion's action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In the last year of the war, Edward was transferred with the 11th Sherwood Foresters from Flanders to the snow-capped mountainous regions of northern Italy.

"What a long war this is!" Edward had written to his sister at the end of 1917. "It seems wonderful to have lived so long through it when everyone else is dead." But five months before the signing of the Armistice, Edward too was dead, and buried with four other officers in the British cemetery at Granezza. He had been killed at Asolo in the morning of 15 June 1918 leading a counter-offensive against the Austrians.

Edward's death was the loss from which Vera Brittain never wholly recovered. She had adored him as the closest companion of her youth and, as she wrote the sections

of *Testament of Youth* describing his grave, she found herself blinded by tears. She was also haunted by a dream in which he appeared to have survived the war, though as a more depressed and less vital individual than the Edward she had once known. This dream formed the basis of a short story by Brittain called "Re-encounter" which was published in *Time and Tide* in December 1932.

Published in August 1933, her autobiography quickly became a best-seller, acclaimed as the woman's book of the war. However in the summer of 1934, almost a year after the book's appearance, Vera Brittain received a letter from Edward's commanding officer, informing her that certain facts of a "personal" nature surrounding Edward's death had been withheld from her. On further questioning, the officer revealed that shortly before the action in which Edward was killed, he had learned that Edward was being investigated by the military police. Letters written to Edward by another officer, while on leave, had been censored at the base. From these it was apparently plain that Edward had been involved in homosexual relations with men in his company. The commanding officer had given Edward a warning of the investigation, and, the following day, Edward had been killed.

There were some strange discrepancies in the reports

of Edward's death: some described him as being shot by the enemy in full view of his men while others claimed that Edward had insisted on going ahead of the rest of his company; and that his body had only been found later, after the fighting, with a bullet through his head. Faced with the prospect of a court-martial when the battalion came out of the line, not to mention imprisonment and subsequent disgrace, had Edward shot himself, or deliberately courted death by presenting himself as an easy target for the sniper's bullet?

Vera Brittain never found a satisfactory answer to these questions. It was painful for her to acknowledge that there had been a side to his character which Edward had felt forced to conceal even from his beloved sister. On reflection, though, she recalled the wartime letters to her in which Edward had dropped his guard of self-containment, and spoken of his difficulties with women and his belief that he would probably never marry. What was most distressing was not the disclosure of her brother's sexuality, but the almost "unendurable" thought "of how bitter his last days must have been".

Alan Bishop and Mark Bostridge are the editors of *Letters from a Lost Generation: the First World War letters of Vera Brittain and four friends* (Little, Brown, £18.99).

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

COOKE: On 3 November 1998, to Kim (nee Hutchings) and Justin, a daughter, Harriet Jenkins.

#### DEATHS

DYCKHOFF: Eric Bernard Charles, Solicitor, of Cheshire, Cheshire. Died peacefully on 9 November 1998 after a short illness. Widower of Muriel and Jean, and loving father of Elizabeth and Roy. Father-in-law of Cecilia, and grandfather of Livia and Max. For funeral details please contact Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd. Telephone 0161-628 2097.

Announcements for GAZETTE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

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The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits France and unveils a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Paris; and attends ceremonies in Paris and Ieper (Ypres), Belgium, to mark Remembrance

### BIRTHDAYS

Professor Thomas Allibone, physicist, 95; Miss Bith Andersson, actress, 63; Mrs Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 49; Lord Carr of Hadley, former Home Secretary, 82; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 73; Mr Jonathan Penby, Editor, *South China Morning Post*, 56; Mr Roy Fredericks, cricketer and politician, 56; Mr Ron Greenwood, former football manager, 77; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, deputy chairman, GEC-Marconi, 68; Sir Martin Jacobson, chairman, British Council, 69; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University, 78; Sir Harold Kent QC, Commissioner to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, 95; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 51; Dr Indraprakash Patel, economist, 74; Professor Colin Platt, medieval historian, 64; Mr Terence Rooney MP, 48; Mr John Sheffield, former chairman, Norcor, 85; Sir Peter Shephard, architect, 85; Mr Kurt Vonnegut, novelist, 76; General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, 87; Mr Gordon Wetherell, ambassador to Ethiopia, 50; Miss June Whitfield, actress, 73; Lord Wolfson, chairman, Wolfson Foundation, 71.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Frans Synkers, animal painter, 1979; Johann Albert Fabricius, classical

scholar, 1688; Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, writer, 1821; Jean-Etienne Vallard, painter, 1866; Gustav VI Adolf, King of Sweden, 1883; George Smith Patton, US general, 1885; René Clair (*Chomette*), film director, 1896; Ivy Benson, broadcaster, 1913.

Deaths: Johann Zoffany (Zauflery), theatrical painter, 1810; Sören Aabye Kierkegaard, philosopher, 1855; Ned Kelly, Australian outlaw, hanged 1880; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1904; Sir Edward German (Edward German Jones), composer, 1906; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1945; Fred Nible (Federico Nobile), film director, 1948; Victor Young, composer and conductor, 1956; Cyril Vernon Connolly, writer, journalist and critic, 1974; Alexander James Hanley, novelist and playwright, 1985; Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov (Skrabin), Russian leader, 1986; Samson Andrews, television presenter, 1987.

On this day, work began on the Manchester Ship Canal, 1887; Washington became the 42nd of the United States, 1889; an armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany in the First World War, 1918; the two-minute silence for the dead in the First World War was first observed, 1919; the first video recorder was demonstrated in Beverly Hills, California, 1952; Ian

Smith made a unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia, 1965; Israel and Egypt signed a cease-fire, 1973; in London, the new Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market opened at Nine Elms, South London, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bartholomew of Grottaferrata, St Mannas of Egypt, St Martin of Tours and St Theodore the Studite.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturges, "Sacrifices (II): Poussin, *The Triumph of Pan*", 1pm; William Vaughan, "Trash or Treasure? The National Gallery of British Art", 4.30pm (telephone 0171-747 3888 for tickets). Victoria and Albert Museum: Simon Matthews, "Italian Sculpture: Donatello to Michelangelo", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Michaela Parkin, "Turner Prize Exhibition", 1pm and 3pm. British Museum: Lesley Filton, "Cycladic and Minoan Art", 11.30am.

National Portrait Gallery: Anne Harvey, "A Programme of First World War Poetry", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Christy Phillips, "Images of the Kings of France", 1pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Dr Gillian Bates and Dr Stephen Davies, "Insights into the Molecular Genetics and Neuropathology of Huntington's Disease", 6pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Geoffrey Hosking, "Patronage and the Russian State", 6pm.

### DINNERS

General Dental Council: Dr Margaret Seward, President, and members of the General Dental Council held a dinner yesterday evening at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1. Mr Christopher Kenyon, Chairman of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, who was accompanied by Mrs Kenyon, was the principal guest.

Queen Mary and Westfield College, London: Professor Adrian Smith, the Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, and Sir Christopher France, presided at a guest night held yesterday evening at the college, London E1. Among those present were: Professor Ian Alexander, East Aylesbury; Mr Jack Cunningham MP; Professor Brian Peadar, Dr Tim Holt; Professor Richard Martin; Professor R.J. "Paddy" The Right Rev John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney; Dr Mally Seppes; Mr R.P. Smith; Mr Nicholas Tabor; Mr David Willetts MP; Ms Diana Warwick; Ms Rosie Waterhouse; Mr Stanley Wright.

Foundation for Science and Technology: Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman, Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich, London SE10, following a visit to the Millennium Dome.

Scouts, Middleton, Greater Manchester.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

## Foreign judgment would be enforced

A DEFENDANT who submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of a claim made against him also submitted to that court's jurisdiction in respect of other claims arising out of the same subject matter, or related claims. The foreign court was accordingly a court of competent jurisdiction for the purposes of English conflicts of law principles, and a default judgment entered in it could be enforced by the English court.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the defendant's appeal against the enforcement by the English court of default judgments entered against him in the Florida court.

The second plaintiff owned two pieces of real property in the United States which she held for herself and the first plaintiff as tenants-in-common. The defendant, who had previously persuaded the plaintiffs to pay over their savings into an alleged investment trust, asked them to put up both their properties as collateral for a loan he wished to take out.

The second plaintiff signed what she believed to be loan documents, but which were in fact documents conveying the properties to one of the defendant's companies. The defendant then mortgaged the properties as security for an advance. He made no payments on the mortgage, and the mortgagee subsequently foreclosed on both properties in the Florida court, bringing proceedings against the company and the defendant personally.

The plaintiffs were also joined as defendants in the

### WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

11 NOVEMBER 1998

Murthy and another v Sivajothi and others  
*Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Chadwick)*  
30 October 1998

Florida proceedings as "unknown tenants in possession" who might have some interest in the properties. The proceedings were followed by an agreed stipulation for settlement between the mortgagee, the defendant, and his company.

The plaintiffs, as co-defendants in the Florida proceedings, issued a motion to set aside the stipulation for settlement. They later amended their claim to claim that the mortgage agreement under which the mortgagee had claimed foreclosure was invalid and void, and that they were the true owners of the properties.

The plaintiffs entered default judgments against the defendants in the Florida court, and successfully applied under RSC Ord 14 to enforce those judgments in the English court. The judge held that the defendant's submission to the jurisdiction of the Florida court in connection with the mortgagee's claim against him also constituted a submission to the court's jurisdiction for the purposes of the claims made against him by the plaintiffs as

co-defendants, and that, therefore, under the third case of Dicey & Morris Rule 38, the Florida court was a court of competent jurisdiction by reference to English conflict of laws principles. The defendant appealed. Stephen Auld (Percussion Solicitors) for the plaintiffs; Nicholas Steuart QC and John Clargo (Needleman Treanor) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Evans said that, when a defendant submitted to the jurisdiction of a foreign court in respect of proceedings taken against him, he could also be taken to have submitted to its jurisdiction in respect of claims arising out of the same subject matter, and to related claims, whether made by the party originally claiming against him or by another party. Whether or not a claim was a related claim was a matter of fact and degree. It might not be sufficient that its joinder to the original claim was permitted by the rules of the foreign court, nor should a claim be considered to be a related claim if it would be unfair to the defendant.

In the present case, the plaintiffs had been made defendants to the Florida proceedings because of their possible interest in the land. They had claimed that the mortgagee were void and that the defendant and the mortgagee had fraudulently conspired to deprive them of their property. The plaintiffs' claim was thus fully within the definition of "related claims", and they were, accordingly, entitled to enforce in the English court the default judgment entered in Florida.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
virtue, n.

"DOR! THIS thing's lost its virtue," exclaimed the Renaissance scholar Emily Wilson as she pointed the zipper at the television set but failed to make the channel switch to Fox 5 for *The Simpsons*.

This might appear to make something unduly anthropomorphic of a zipper especially as there was

moments as a battery's going flat.

Reference to Wyclif's version of Luke would surely make it clear: "I have given to you power of treading on serpents, and scorpions, and on all the virtue of the enemy." And, after all, we still preface an assertion with the phrase "by virtue of..."



## WIN A WEEK LONG ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB MED SKIING HOLIDAY.

Everyone can be a winner with The Independent this week. We've teamed up with Club Med and Rossignol to give away seven fantastic all-inclusive Club Med Ski holidays for two and seven runners-up prizes of Rossignol CUT 9.6 Skis. Plus a **SPECIAL OFFER** for every reader **FREE** ski and boot hire when you book your ski holiday direct with Club Med.

With 26 top ski resorts world-wide, Club Med offers the ideal solution for those looking for an all-inclusive, hassle-free ski holiday, so you don't have to worry about unexpected extras! The holiday prize package includes:

- Return flights and transfers from London.
- Full board including wine with meals. • Ski Pass
- Ski tuition (full or half day). • Entertainment. • Insurance.

You could win an all-inclusive holiday at Club Med Leysin in the picturesque Canton de Vaud in Switzerland. Offering a tranquil Swiss mountain haven of spectacular scenery, Club Med's hotel-village is an excellent choice for families. Children aged 4 months and over are catered for at the Children's Club (under 4 years extra cost) leaving parents free to relax and ski to their hearts content. Adult prices at Leysin start from £488 for 1 week.

Rossignol are giving runners up prizes of seven pairs of CUT 9.6 skis. Worth approximately £200, the CUT 9.6 ski is the ultimate confidence builder offering fun and enjoyment for the athletic skier who wishes to carve turns with precision and control.

### HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect any three tokens in The Independent and Independent on Sunday between Saturday 7th and Friday 13th November and send them together with your completed coupon to 'Independent/Club Med Ski Offer', Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. All entrants will be sent a Club Med Voucher for your 'Free Ski and Boot hire'. Winners and runners up will be notified in writing, letters will be dispatched on or before Wednesday 25th November 1998.

Whether you are travelling as a family, couple, a group of friends or on your own, you'll find Club Med offers something for every age and inclination.

For a brochure call: 01455 852 202 and quote 'Independent Ski'. For direct bookings and enquiries call: 0171 581 1161 (0700 CLUBMED).

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) All entrants and guests must be 16 years old or over. 2) No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by sending an SAE to: The Independent, Club Med Offer, 17th Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL before the deadline. 3) The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. The winners will be notified by mail, these letters will be dispatched on Wednesday 25th November 1998 or before. 4) The holidays are as per the Club Med Winter Ski - 98/99 brochure and must be completed by the end of the season covered by this brochure (approx April 1999 depending on destination). 5) The prizes are seven all-inclusive one week holidays for two adults at selected Club Med Ski Villages subject to availability. 6) All holidays may be subject to alteration and change and exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter weeks. 7) The prizes are non transferable and can only be accepted as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8) The seven sets of Rossignol CUT 9.6 skis for the runners up do not include bindings. 9) Photocopies, damaged or defaced tokens will not be accepted. Proof of posting will not confirm entry. We will not accept responsibility for items lost or damaged in the post. 10) Independent Newspapers shall not be liable for any costs, claims, injuries, damages or loss occasioned by any failure, however caused, to fulfil the terms of this promotion. 11) Employees of the Independent, their agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. 12) No correspondence will be entered into and the Editors decision is final. Promoter: Club Med.

### INDEPENDENT / CLUB MED SKI OFFER

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Mail coupon with any three tokens to: Independent/Club Med Offer, Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG, before Wednesday 18th November.

#### ON WHICH DAYS DO YOU NORMALLY BUY THE INDEPENDENT?

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If you do not wish to receive information from The Independent/Club Med or other selected organisations please tick the box ☐

TOKEN 5

THE INDEPENDENT  
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Club Med



Farmers' markets offer a cornucopia of fresh, quality food - and the opportunity to sample before you purchase

David Rose

## Food, glorious food

Farmers' markets are springing up around the country selling top-quality produce direct to the public. The supermarkets should be worried. By Christopher Hurst

Normally occupied by the wholesale vegetable trade, Southwark's 260-year-old Borough Market enjoyed a return to its glory days over the weekend. For three days, Londoners slurped oysters, sipped mulled cider, savoured smoked eel, nibbled venison, sniffed boletus fungi, chooped Bronze turkey with apricot stuffing, scoffed smoked duck eggs, salivated over rounds of Caerphilly cheese and guzzled chunks of hand-raised pork pie.

Organised by Henrietta Green, compiler of the invaluable *Food Lovers' Guide to Britain*, the Food Lovers' Fair drew together 50 of Britain's best specialist producers. "It's simply brilliant," declared Jennifer Paterson, half of the Two Fat Ladies, puffing on her Woodbine. "There should be one every weekend. Everyone would come. It's the kind of thing that the French, the Italians and the Portuguese never lost."

It seems that many others feel the same way. Over a dozen farmers' markets are now regularly held in the UK and many more are planned for next year. Offering an outlet for direct sales by small, specialist producers to customers, the name comes from the US, where the number of farmers' markets has grown from 300 in 1974 to 2,500 today. Each week, up to a million Americans do their shopping there. At the long-established market in Union Square, New York (one of 25 in the city), I saw perhaps two dozen stalls on a quiet Monday last June. Produce included bundles of organic asparagus, aromatic clumps of lettuce, skeins of two-tone wool from Jacob's sheep and squares of wheatgrass, providing greenery for Manhattan's apartment-bound cat population.

According to one report, Union Square traders can make up to \$10,000 a day at weekend peaks, though there was little sign of such lucrative takings at the time of my visit. Of course, the idea of farmers' markets is not a new one - every one of the 6,000 weekly markets in France is to some extent a farmers' market - but they have almost completely died out in Britain since the Second World War (the Farnham Market in Barnstable is a rare survivor).

For the past half-century, British markets have been seen as a cheap dumping ground with little emphasis on quality," said Henrietta Green, who is now the patron saint of the small producer. "In order to overturn the idea of indifferent goods at rock-bottom prices, farmers' markets have to be regulated so we know that food is locally produced and to a high standard."

The British have to change their approach to food buying, she added. "We tend to think of shopping as a chore which needs to be done as quickly as possible. That's why people go to supermarkets, though they're quite stressful and harassing. Farmers' markets must be perceived as an enjoyable leisure activity. I'd like to think we'll all be dashing to them in the next few years, but it will be quite a rocky path for traders. People have to be persuaded to go and they must have confidence in what they're buying. Integrity is vital."

Nicola Fletcher, a venison producer from Auchtermuchty, pointed out that supermarket regulations were at odds with traditional production. "They can't take our meat. It's hung for three weeks, so it's got a high bacteria content. What they can't understand is that it's good bacteria. The battle against industrial farming has benefited hugely from BSE. It made people stop and realise that good meat costs money."

Usually held fortnightly or monthly, farmers' markets are sometimes organised by local authorities, and sometimes by the producers themselves. With 20 to 30 stalls, the markets customarily combine organic with conventional produce. Unlike the Food Lovers' Show, farmers' markets are confined to local producers. The Bath farmers' market, held on the first Saturday of each month under the handsome Victorian arches of the disused Green Street railway station, insists that

comparison with ordinary markets. There's always somebody who can produce things cheaper, but we're offering a totally different standard of food." Experts agree that farmers' markets have to set up their stalls well away from ordinary street markets. Any attempt to combine the two is usually disastrous.

The Bath initiative has been followed by farmers' markets at Bristol, Frome (where 5,000 attended on the first day), Glastonbury, Bridport, Gloucester and Cullompton. Breaking the west country monopoly, events have also taken place in Wolverhampton, Holmfirth and Lewes, with others planned for Ashford, Winchester, Chard, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. At least three are being considered for London - Islington, Notting Hill and Borough Market.

Local authorities see farmers' markets as a way to reinvigorate town centres made moribund by out-of-town supermarkets. Last week, a seminar on farmers' markets organised by the south-eastern region of the NFU drew 30-odd council officials from Surrey, Kent and Sussex. "It's not simply a question of putting a few stalls in the market," warned Harriet Festing, an expert on American farmers' markets who works for Ashford Borough Council. "You require professional management and entertainment." One US market features a cannon which fires pumpkins; rock bands, jugglers and cherry-stone spitting competitions are more conventional attractions.

Despite the mushrooming growth of farmers' markets, success is by no means guaranteed. Of the 20 set up last year, about a quarter flopped. The seminar was mysteriously informed that Horsham farmers' market collapsed due to "general trader opposition". One speaker noted that even the groundbreaking Bath operation was "not generating enough excitement at present". Gareth Jones of the Farm Retail Association stressed that farmers are not necessarily great entertainers (a fact known only too well to listeners of *The Archers*): "Farmers may be great at growing and rearing but freeze in front of people. But the truth is that if small producers are to survive, they have to get out there and sell."

*'There's now a food elite in this country. It's not that they're rich but that they care about food'*

New Forest cider-maker, Barry Todd, who was doing a roaring trade at the Food Lovers' Fair, stressed the financial advantages of selling direct to the public. "I was approached by one supermarket buyer who was astonished that I didn't want to have anything to do with him. What's the point in selling to you?" I said. "You'd just grind me down on price."

But Peter Greig of Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Devon, who was handing out generous samples of traditionally cured ham and pesto-stuffed chicken at Borough Market, insisted that the most important benefit of direct selling is building up a relationship with customers. "It's very important that we have complete control from start to finish," he declared. "We've spent 20 years building up this business - we put so much passion into our products and we want to pass it on to customers without interference. We want no middlemen."

traders must be located within a 35-mile radius of the city.

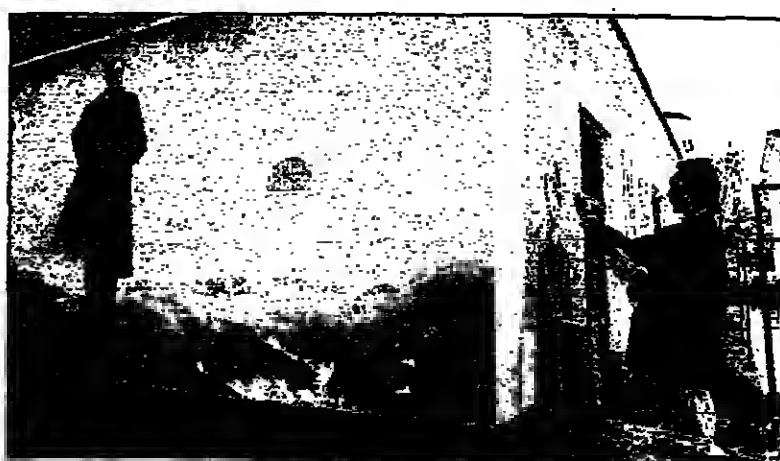
Established in September last year, this self-regulated venue was the first US-style farmers' market in Britain. "It's not a massive money-spinner, but it does get the product known," said Keith Goverd, who sells 20 different types of single-variety apple juice at Bath. He added that the market has re-established an old tradition. "It's no different to what our parents and grandparents did. If you have direct contact with consumers, people appreciate what you're producing. There's now a food elite in this country. This doesn't mean they're rich, but they do take an interest in food and ask questions pertinent to health and the quality of food."

Debra Bolbot, who sells smoked meats and cheeses at Bath's farmers' market, is convinced the markets are here to stay. "I've no doubt they will catch on," she said. "There's no com-

## The village where communism works

Continued from page 1  
so technically skilled honorary citizens who have been recruited at salaries up to 10 times the villagers' maximum. But the workhorses of Nanjie's collectivised economic miracle are the 11,000 low-paid factory workers, mostly from other Henan villages. They are glad of the jobs, but wages are meagre and, apart from free basic food and lodging, they do not qualify for welfare benefits. The girls at the noodle factory are paid just £10 a month, with no security of employment if Nanjie's sky-high growth rate falters, as it has this year amid the regional economic crisis.

Nanjie also gets an unnatural boost from the extraordinary number of visitors who come to marvel - up to 250,000 each year. They snap up Mao badges and huts, plus an array of books and videos on the Nanjie experience. Yang Yuchao, 25, from a Peking factory making machines for the coal industry, said he had come to see the Nanjie spirit. "It is very sincere, very simple. I saw the lady in charge of cleaning work... she was very conscientious."



We have to hope that the leaders are as conscientious as they claim. The net profits of Nanjie's enterprises are paid into a collective account, which Mr Wang said now stood at 600m yuan (£46m). This compares with the annual spending of 4m yuan on citizens' welfare - less than £100 a year per person, despite the low cap on wages.

There are strict rules to prevent corruption, with the party asking everyone to handle correctly any discounts, gifts and favours. Nanjie's upstanding citizens have handed in more than 1,000 gifts in recent years, worth a total of 583,000 yuan (£45,000). It remains a puzzle who is backing Nanjie politically. Mr Wang gave pre-

cisely worded answers to all political questions, knowing that he could land himself in hot water. He rejected the suggestion that the Deng reforms were wrong for Nanjie, and he did not preach that other villages should copy his model. So was he being used by leftists?

People holding such a view do not understand Nanjie's situation, said Mr Wang. But those with links to Peking's remaining hardliners have written articles praising Nanjie.

Collectivism was a disaster for Nanjie and for China when Mao was alive, so Nanjie's orthodoxy is characterised as *wai yuan, nei fang* (circle outside, square inside). The circle represents the flexibility of the market economy, the square is the strict Maoist disciplining of the people. It suits both sides to stress publicly that the village's economic successes could not exist without the Deng reforms.

The goodbye present from Nanjie to *The Independent* hedged its bets with a gilded Mao lapel badge in a box with two slogans: "Mao Thought wins over God", and "Mao is human, not God".



# You ask the questions

(Such as: Mohamed al-Fayed, do you still believe that the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy?)

**M**ohamed al-Fayed was born in Egypt in 1933 and educated at private school, then at the university of Alexandria. He has been chairman of Harrods since 1994. He also owns the Ritz in Paris, the late Duke of Windsor's house in France, a castle in Scotland and an estate in Surrey. Last week he agreed to pay damages over the breaking open of Mr Rowland's safe deposit box. Mr Fayed is married and has four children.

**Are you a good Muslim? Do you follow the tradition of the Koran?**  
*Angela West, Skegness*  
I try hard to be. I try to do some good each day and use my wealth to benefit others.

**Why do you swear so much?**  
*Chris Lovell, Shepherd's Bush*  
Do I?

**Are you on good terms with Neil Hamilton these days?**  
*Diane Church, Westminster University*  
Neil who?

**How do you feel about the outcome in court last week re Tiny Rowland's deposit box?**  
*Christina Leonard, Dorset*  
I have mixed feelings. Regret that Tiny's death robbed me of the chance to defend myself properly, but relief that I can now draw a line under 14 years of bitterness.

**Do you still believe the car crash in Paris was a conspiracy? How much have you spent investigating it?**  
*Iain Compton, Portsmouth*  
I have not changed my view about the crash. There are so many unanswered questions. The French inquiry has already taken 14 months. Would it really have taken so long if the crash were a simple, straightforward accident? I have great faith in Judge Stephan. He is a man of great compassion and has been very thorough. I have to know that what happened to my beloved son Dodi and my great friend Princess Diana was God's will and not the will of others. Because of this I do not count the cost of my own inquiries.

**Do you consider yourself a good friend of Peter Preston (editorial director of the Guardian Media Group)?**  
*Julia Nardine, Esmouth*  
Certainly. Peter is a man of great principle. He was courageous and steadfast throughout the cash-for-questions row.

**What paper do you read every day?**  
*Jasper Lilley, Clapham*  
All of them, but I believe very little.

**How do you hope people will remember you?**  
*Ann Thompson, Rhyl*  
As a man who did some good and brought some colour, entertainment and happiness into people's lives.

**What's your biggest regret in life?**  
*William Longley, Hammersmith*  
My first marriage. I was too young.

**Why do you think British MPs always end up in sleazy sex- and drug-type scandals? Have you ever been to Clapham Common?**  
*AL Forsyth*  
I think the general standard of people entering public life has gone down, and the press are far more prurient. But the sad case of Ron Davies shows the tragic consequences of cruel parenting. It's a truism, but if we were all kinder to our children we would have a lot more happy, well-adjusted adults. I think Battersea heliport is probably the nearest I have ever been to Clapham Common.

**Who do you dislike most at the moment, and why?**  
*Lewis Morley*  
I know a few people who have taken a strong dislike to me, but I hate no one and try hard not to harbour grudges. Even the late Tiny Rowland, my arch rival in the business world for many years, was someone whose company I could enjoy socially. We

got along quite well and teased each other mercilessly. We enjoyed each other's sense of humour. I was saddened by his death and wrote to his widow.

**Who is your favourite British comedian, and why do you find him/her so funny?**  
*Tina Stanforth, Camden*  
Harry Enfield - he is so wonderfully versatile and subtle in puncturing the pomposity of our politicians.

**With your "unauthorised" biography selling well, are you selling it in Harrods? If yes, is it reduced in price? Are you planning an official biography?**  
*Susan Wakefield, Stroud*  
The unauthorised biography is not selling well and I certainly see no reason why I should use my own store to promote a malicious work of fiction. My true life story is well advanced and should be published next spring.

**As a vertically challenged person, do you feel that you are more driven to strive for world domination (eg Hitler, Napoleon) in comparison to competitors who by necessity have to look down on you?**  
*Anonymous*  
At 5ft 10in I do not regard myself as vertically challenged. I am far taller (and more handsome!) than I appear on TV. In any event I have never subscribed to the view that size counts.

## YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS

NEXT WEEK: BARRY MANILOW, THEN FOLLOWING: EDWARD HEATH

Please send any questions you would like to put to Barry Manilow or Sir Edward Heath to: You Ask The Questions, Features Dept, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5DL. Or by fax on 0171-293 2182 or e-mail to: yourquestions@independent.co.uk - by noon on Friday, 13 November



**Don't you think that it is inappropriate for short people, especially yourself, to wear Prince of Wales check suits?**  
*Ian Tysszkiewicz*  
As they say in the House, I refer you to my previous answer. My own taste is, of course, impeccable.

**When and where did you see your first football match?**  
*Ivor Davies, Merthyr Tydfil*  
In Alexandria, when I was 12. The game was Wolves vs Royal Navy.

**What happened to the beautiful bronze lifts in Harrods, and why were they removed?**  
*Michael Hugh, Noyland*  
The six magnificent lifts to which you refer were removed to make way for the Egyptian escalator in the centre of Harrods. They are all listed and are now in storage. They are in good condition and we have plans to use them again in a future expansion.

**Who do you think is against your citizenship application? How many MPs do you think work for the security services?**  
*Anon*  
The Home Secretary, and he alone, will make the decision on my citizenship application. I have every confidence that it will be considered fairly and without prejudice. It is no secret that my exposure of political corruption in the last Conservative government made me some pretty

powerful enemies - some right-wing newspaper editors have sworn to hound me out of the country - but Britain is my home. My four children are all British, and I love this country. I am law-abiding and pay my taxes. I provide thousands of jobs and make a big contribution to the economy - I am not about to leave the country, whatever is decided. As to how many MPs work for the security service, your guess is as good as mine. Tom King MP, the chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee, admitted only this week that information can be withheld even from him.

**If you didn't use the Sultan of Brunei's money to buy Harrods, where did the money come from?**  
*Donald Chittle, Buckingham*  
Between 1968 and 1978 I won orders for £60m-worth of civil engineering and construction work for British firms, including Costain, of which I owned 30 per cent. Harrods was bought with my own money. Not only did I inject additional capital into House of Fraser to service any borrowings after the acquisition, I also made further bonds available to refurbish stores in the group and acquire additional stores such as Turnbull & Asser, and acquired a significant interest in Searns PLC. I have also spent more than £300m restoring Harrods.

**On his own admission the late Tiny Rowland spent £40m trying to prove to the DTT Inspectors that the purchase money was not mine, but he never succeeded. My only crime was to have more money than Tiny thought I had.**

**Have you ever taken anything home from Harrods without paying for it?**  
*Neil Price, Norfolk*  
No. And I pay my Gold Card Account on time, too.

**We're so miserable in Britain. Why on earth do you want to live here?**  
*Josephine Ellis, West Hampstead*  
I love the British sense of humour.

**Do you believe in life after death - do you think you'll ever see Dodi again?**  
*Ellis, West Hampstead*  
I firmly believe in life after death and have no doubt that one day I shall be reunited with my beloved son.

**Can you list what is in your bathroom cabinet?**  
*Stewart Catchpole, Colchester*  
Homoeopathic remedies, toothpaste, shaving soap, razors. I forget the rest.

**Are you a good cook? What's your favourite dish?**  
*Deborah Quinley, Esher*  
I love cooking for my family. I am a great fan of stuffed vegetables but my real favourite is a dish I call Ritz Beef - sautéed filets mignons with mushrooms and shallots, served with a Madeira sauce.

**Where would you most like to be right now?**  
*Jan Fawersham, Cornwall*  
I am very privileged to work in the place I love best - Harrods. But my most treasured home is Balmagown Castle in Scotland, the first property I ever bought in Britain.

**What was the last book you read?**  
*Richard Johns, Eitham*  
A biography of the radical Tom Paine, by John Keane.

**Which newspaper do you dislike most at the moment, and why?**  
*Olga Pimen, Hove*  
The Sun. It recently called me a reptile in huge red letters on the front page. I am all in favour of robust press comment, but felt that was just a little over the top.

**Do you read Private Eye? What do you most like about England?**  
*Ifor Williams, Gwynedd*  
I do not read Private Eye but am told I feature regularly. It's nice to be popular and give people pleasure. For satire with real bite and spice I read Punch. England's best qualities are its tolerance and good humour.



Arnold Slater

## IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

17: DYSONS BY HETTIE JUDAH

SINCE THE day the DC02 was launched, members of the style press seem to have been stuck so far up Dyson's fundament that no amount of dual cyclone suction could get them out again: as far as I can tell they languish there still. I am usually immune to the vagaries of fashion, but about a year ago I began to succumb to Dysonmania. I could identify with the user group: I lived away from my parents, occasionally drank bottled beer, and would never have dreamt of laminating my moochily travel card; dammit, I was young and hep. I bought myself a Dyson

because, quite frankly, I was worth it, and God forbid, I wouldn't want anyone to think I was unhygienic or anything. So I began to use Dyson on quite a regular basis. To start with, it was quite fun. I arrived in December and I derived hours of entertainment from vacuuming along the branches of the Christmas tree and watching all the needles and bits of glitter mound up inside the clear plastic dust bowl. After a while I started using it for more everyday tasks - cleaning the floor and such like. It was around that time

that I started noticing little problems with my DC02, such as, for instance, it didn't suck very well. This is not such a great problem in the grand scheme of things, but a fairly fundamental flaw in a vacuum cleaner. At one of those amusing little cheese and wine parties so beloved of appliance junkies, I mentioned my new Dyson to a fellow cabernet-swilling guest. He had one too. "I say, does yours work?" he whispered. "Not very well; it's kind of noisy and it doesn't suck much," I replied. "Gosh, that's a relief; we



just assumed it was because we were a bit, well, dirty, you know, and it couldn't cope." It turned out that we were not alone; the Dyson DC02 may maintain 100 per cent of its original suction, but the suction itself is just not as good as a normal vacuum cleaner. In addition, it is very noisy, doesn't quite get into corners, and has problems with animal hairs. It may have no bag, but to empty the bowl you have to tip it into a bin, which sends a cloud of grime back out into the atmosphere. And that cute little see-through dust bowl? Gets

covered in disgusting dust, as do most of the internal components. Dyson recommend washing it out with soap and water, which is just a little more hands-on than I want to get with my discarded skin particles, thank you very much. And for the £14-odd you save a year on Hoover bags, you get to spend £37 on changing the filters. For a work of art, it is a price worth paying, yet the more I look at the over-designed DC02, the uglier it gets - the stewed liver grey, faux grape and mental-health-ward yellow colour scheme that can only have

been inspired by a Pony Club tie; the hideous Fisher Price-style chunky styling; the static plastic that the dust so loves to stick to. The DC02 arrived at a time when the world was out to slam Hoover. Not only were we desperate for a new appliance king; we were desperate for British heroes. With the DC02, Dyson was selling new technology that he flattered us we could understand. He had just the right mix of nutty inventiveness and derring-do for us to take him and his invention to our hearts. No questions asked. Perhaps that is where we messed up.





Late 1930s black dress with silver-stencilled roses, £750, hat with net trim from a selection Photographed: Anna Stevenson, stylist: Holly Wood, make-up: Helen Walsh at GSM using Bobbi Brown Hair; Sacha Mascolo for Toni & Guy, using TIGI Haircare products; model: Marie-Claire at Select. All clothes from Virginia, 98 Portland Road Holland Park W11, enquiries, 0171-727 9908



1920s gold devore cape, £400, 1930s midnight blue velvet dress, £850, both from Virginia in Holland Park, London (see details below)



Thirties red satin bias cut dress, £750, and long, Edwardian beaded tasselled scarf, worn as headband, £300



1920s black silk heron motif hand-beaded dress, price available on application

# Hold that frock for Galliano

A basement shop in Holland Park is a place of pilgrimage for fashion designers, cinema divas and models. By Tamsin Blanchard



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At this time of year, fashion designers leave their wry-tongued studios to take great gulps of fresh air, and go in search of new ideas and inspiration. Just weeks after the spring/summer '99 collections of New York, London, Paris and Milan are over, they are already history in the minds of those who created them. By the end of this month, the next egg, the one stamped autumn/winter '99/2000, must be hatched.

One research destination that has become a priority for many designers - Donna Karan, John Galiano, Stella McCartney, Ralph Lauren and Antonio Berardi to name a few - is a tiny shop tucked away in one of the most undiscovered and fashionable corners of Holland Park. You do not need to make an appointment. Nor will you be requested to handle the clothes with gloves. And best of all - unlike at the V&A or the Costume Museum in Bath - everything has a price tag.

In the three years that Virginia has been specialising in pre-Forties clothing (previously, Virginia Bates sold Victorian baths and antique plumbing equipment), the shop has become a place of pilgrimage for those in the know in the fashion world. It is the sort of shop that a designer will board Concorde to spend a few hours in. For the past couple of weeks, Virginia's has been a hive of activity, shiny limos parked outside while some of the world's most influential designers do some shopping in the name of research and development. What you see hanging on the rails in Virginia's this week might find its way on to the catwalk next spring and into the high street by next autumn.

The average gestation period for a collection can last from around three to four months. But finding the starting point for a collection always proves the most difficult part. And the research that goes into the making of a collection is thorough and all-encompassing. No stone will be left unturned, be it an exhibition, film, play or library. At this time of year, and again in April, many fashion designers become the academics of their field. Long days will be spent in libraries, galleries and the vaults of

costume museums, working through the fragile pieces of fashion history.

Fashion designers like to find inspiration from old clothes. They will trawl the flea markets of New York, the markets of Greenwich and Camden and every vintage clothing store they can find to seek out a detail for a sleeve here, a patch of beading or embroidery there. Sometimes they will be inspired by the cut of a dress, or the style of a collar. Other times they will out and out copy. At Virginia's, they don't have to look very hard. It is not a case of rummaging through bargain boxes and hunting through the rails. The pieces of clothing at Virginia's hit you right between the eyes.

"It's got to be a wow piece or I won't buy it," says Virginia, a blonde-haired Bohemian who looks as though she might have been a Sixties rock star in a previous life. She has eyes and ears up and down the country on the look-out for new finds. "The days are gone when a little old lady would come in with a bin bag of treasure," says Virginia ruefully. Often, clothes are shrouded in mystery when she acquires them. "A lot of pieces were costume made for Lady So-and-So. I never get to know exactly who they belonged to because people can be secretive. But most of the clothes have had one owner." This is the reason her stock is in such good condition. "In those days women didn't wear Manolo Blahnik shoes that went straight through the hem of a chiffon dress. Women were dressed by a maid."

She knows her stuff, not in a boring museum curator way but in the way of a woman who is passionate about clothes, and who has an eye for



Virginia Bates Emma Boam

the most wondrous dresses, coats, capes and accessories - the ones that make real life melt away into fantasy. She does not bore you with dates and historical lectures. She simply urges you to try on a piece that she knows will make you look superb.

"This is a shop of shining pieces. People's dreams," she says. "It's the mystery and the fantasy of it - a total passion. And that's why I'll never make any money." Despite the fact that the only drawback to Virginia's world of sequined fantasy is that the prices are as serious as the clothes, she is right. This is not the way to make money. A delicate, ruby-red, glitter-print tulle slip dress from the early Twenties might seem a bit steep at £980, but there will never be another like it. Certainly not in that pristine condition. These clothes are priceless; indeed, when Virginia finds something she loves, she won't part with it for any price. Her private collection,

much of which she wears, is packed with gems that designers - and museum curators - would like to get their hands on.

Stepping into Virginia's is like stepping into another world where credit cards and chequebooks are but sordid details. The windows seduce you with their jumble of Victorian dresses, bugle-beaded scarves, multicoloured sequined evening capes. The afternoon I visited, a customer was busy downstairs in the heart of the shop, seemingly trying on every piece that fitted her. She had flown over for the day from Germany, for the sole purpose of a spree at the shop. She spent over an hour with Jo, Virginia's assistant, who was at her beck and call. Eventually, she emerged from the basement boudoir with an armful of one-off clothes which were packed up for her flight home in return for a sum I roughly calculated to be in excess of £4,000. She rang a few days later to buy a coat she'd regretted leaving behind.

"I want people to be happy," says Virginia. "I want my customers to feel special." So when Naomi Campbell's limousine pulls up outside the shop at five o'clock, it is all part of Virginia's service to stay open for a little late-night shopping. When Demi Moore paid a visit, she stayed until midnight, and left with around 30 pieces. But although Demi has designers clamouring to dress her, she knows that when she wears Virginia's clothes (and they are all packed with Virginia's own discreet little label) she will never run into anyone else wearing the same dress. Or indeed, a dress with such attention to detail and such incredible craftsmanship. As they say, they don't

make them like that any more.

This month's American Vogue cover girl, Amber Valletta, is another Virginia's fan. She apparently goes for the "really pretty things" and is known for her unique dress sense. At the party thrown in September for British imports at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, Amber wore an amazing antique Chinese coat. Such is her influence in the fashion world, Virginia was flown over for the event too and was given her own section of the department store for two weeks; she transported her stock and the atmosphere of the shop to New York, carrying a Victorian corset, a handful of ostrich leathers, some silk flowers and four 19th-century curtains in her hand luggage.

Usually, however, the fashion world comes to Virginia. On Monday, it was Gucci. Last week, John Galiano paid a visit. He has been "shopping" at Virginia's for the past two years and invites her to his shows. When he invited her to Paris last season he chauffeured her and her suitcase of treasures from the station to his studio for lunch. "He's been such an inspiration for me," she says. "In a way, he made me decide to concentrate on clothes. He made me realise I have a flair for it." Whenever new stock comes in, she will put pieces aside that she thinks Galiano might want. The same goes for Ralph Lauren or Gucci. "They buy my discretion," she says.

"The fashion world has changed as a result of this little basement in Holland Park. When I see something of mine on the catwalk, I think, yes, I was right. The haggle, the wheeler-dealing and the hunch are all paid off."

It seems crazy that nobody has thought to put Virginia on their payroll, as a researcher or consultant. But perhaps it is better that way. Even if you can't afford to buy anything there, Virginia's is one of the few places you can go and see magnificent pieces of fashion history and craft in the flesh. For her it is an addiction - she says she is looking for something that will give her a hit. But for anyone else who simply wants to go and fantasise, spot a designer on the prowl - or be tempted by a dress for the party season - there is no better place.

## YOUNG CATWALK PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

The Independent, in conjunction with Clothes Show Live '98, The British Heart Foundation and Olympus, is out to find the young catwalk photographer of the year for the second year running. A panel of judges will choose five finalists to attend Clothes Show Live '98 on 4 December, when they will photograph a catwalk show. The winning picture will be chosen from those taken on the day.

Send three photographs which capture the "Heart of Fashion" (they can be in any format, and in either black-and-white or colour), to Young Catwalk Photographer of the Year, The Independent (Fashion), 1 Canada Square,

Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, to arrive no later than 25 November 1998. Caption each picture, and include your name and address. We regret that we are unable to return any pictures submitted. The judges' decision is final. The Prizes The winner will receive an OM 2000 camera plus kit, including a lens and flash, and work experience with The Independent's catwalk photographer during London Fashion Week in February 1999. The winning shot will be published in The Independent, and also in Clothes Show Live '98 publicity material. Two runners-up will receive an IS10 camera plus kit. Cameras supplied by Olympus.

JP 11/11/98



# Highlights from a low life

The writer Charles Bukowski died in 1994, yet his legend lives on. Indeed, it's been industrialised. By Declan O'Neill

One badge reads "Nobody's ugly after 2am"; another says, "I'm lying, but believe me it's true". Both are quotes from Charles Bukowski, the American poet and author who died in 1994. On the one hand the badges, produced for an exhibition in London, are frivolous pieces of merchandise; on the other, they are signifiers of the immense appeal to popular culture of the man referred to by critics as "the flop-house laureate".

He also said - though it wouldn't fit on a badge - "Even though I write about the human race, the further away I am from them, the better I feel. Two inches is great. Two miles is great. Two thousand miles is beautiful".

Misanthropy is part of the Bukowski allure: certainly it was no deterrent to the 3,000 or so devotees who made the pilgrimage to a 1996 exhibition of his first editions, Farah slacks, handkerchiefs, betting slips, T-shirts, pens, ashtrays, bottle openers, reading glasses and even his sleeping mask.

The spin-offs since his death include a rash of memoirs (one, by an old girlfriend, was called *Blowing My Hero*), movies, CDs, videos, documentaries, fannzines and websites. Universities buy up his letters and collectors fight over the few surviving editions of his early books. As many poems as were printed in his lifetime await eventual publication, and though the whole story has yet to be told, Howard Soames's excellent new biography, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, is an excellent place to start.

Dirty realism came easily to Bukowski and he came to dominate the genre with his chronicles of drinking, whoring and gambling. "If something terrible happens," he wrote in *Women*, "you drink to forget it; if something good happens you drink to celebrate... and if nothing happens, you drink to make something happen."

Once described as "a big hunchback, with a ravaged, pockmarked face, de-

cayed, nicotine-stained teeth and pain-filled eyes," he made an unlikely celebrity. From drifter beginnings, working at odd jobs in spurts then writing with a pencil stub in freezing lodgings, came more than 45 books of poetry and prose, translated into more than a dozen languages. After his death there was even the obligatory tussle over the million-dollar estate.

Bukowski's widow, Linda, considered opening their San Pedro home as a museum. A couple of years after his death Kevin Ring, editor of the English magazine *Bent Scene*, published AD Winans' memoir *The Charles Bukowski/Second Coming Years*, including a poem by Bukowski that gave what Ring says were "explicit directions on how to get to [his] house. We sent her the book and thought, 'Oh, she'll like this,' and she said, 'I've got the book - great, but I'm going to kill you'."

So what's the fuss about? Soames describes the Bukowski philosophy as "a rejection of drudgery and imposed rules, of mendacity and pretentiousness; an acceptance that human lives are often wretched and that people are frequently cruel to one another, but that life can also be beautiful, sexy and funny."

Bukowski realised early on that the trick lay in being himself. From Ernest Hemingway and John Fante he took a stripped-down style, heavy on dialogue - "the spoken word nailed to paper", as the critic John Corrington put it.

Bukowski was born in 1920 and was nearly 50, pockmarked and pot-bellied, when his career took off, the low-life counterpoint to a cultural revolution predicated upon youth and beauty. His break came when John Martin, the manager of an office supply company, sold off his library of first editions to set up Black Sparrow Press. In 1971, Bukowski quit his Post Office job (a postman for two years and sorter for nine) to write full-time for Black Sparrow which, largely through his earning power, built up an annual turnover of more than \$1m.

There was plenty of time to entertain the procession of women desperate for an encounter with the man behind "Notes of a Dirty Old Man", the column he wrote for the Los Angeles alternative paper *Open City*, and at night he would stroll up to his local coffee stand, where he would often meet a comic book distributor, George DiCaprio (father of Leo). In Soames' biography, DiCaprio recalls Christmas Eve, 1975. He was washing up after dinner with his mother when a drunken Bukowski burst in. "You know it's just a few inches that separates a man from paradise," he said, his voice rising to a yell, "that prevents a man from sucking his own cock!"

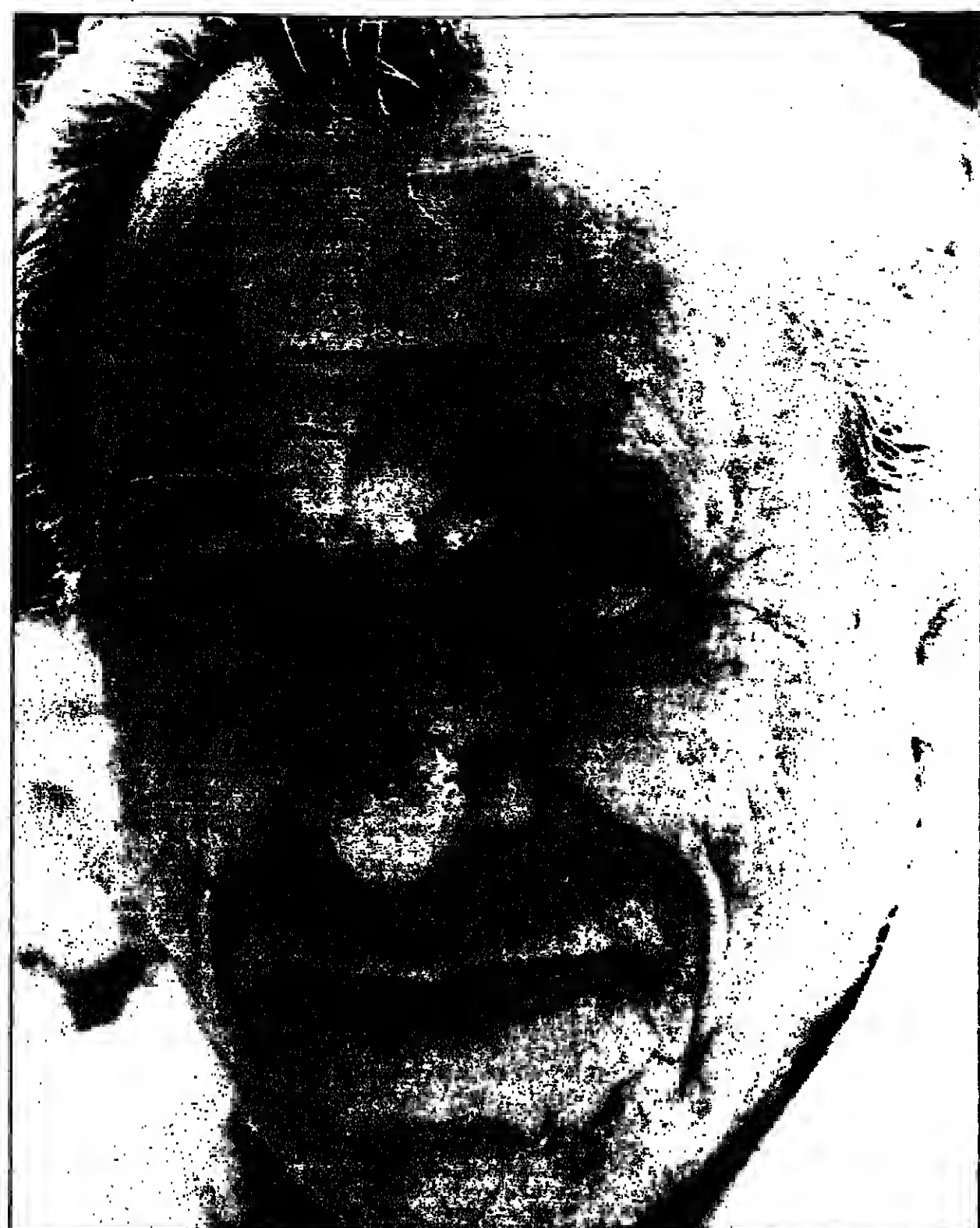
Though he was never without a voice in his own country, Bukowski has always spoken most loudly to European sensibilities - the 1971 novel *Post Office* sold 75,000 at home and 500,000 copies abroad. In Germany, the country his parents left when he was two, he built up a huge following through his readings, the Germans seeing him, he said, as a mixture of "Bogart, Hemingway and Jack the Ripper." They loved him in France, too, after his drunken appearance on a TV talk show. After asking to see more of a female guest's legs - to see how good a writer she was, he said - and calling the host a "fucking son of a fucking bitch asshole," he bid her *au revoir*.

"He didn't remember anything, of course," recalls Barbet Schroeder, director of the film *Barfly*, "but the whole of France was running to buy his books."

There were two earlier European films, *Crazy Love* (which Bukowski considered the best account of his work), and *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, starring Ben Gazzara, whose portrayal of him Bukowski hated, saying he had "eyes like a constipated man sitting on the pot straining to crap."

Grudging recognition finally came from the literary mainstream on the back of *Barfly*, the Mickey Rourke and Faye Dunaway vehicle for which Bukowski wrote the screenplay and in which he appeared as a drunk. He didn't need much of a screen test.

"Fame is the last whore," he wrote in the poem "Supposedly Famous", and the



Bukowski - writer, drinker, philosopher: 'It's just a few inches that separate a man from paradise' Rex

financial security accrued from *Barfly*'s modest success - he drove to his beloved racetrack in a BMW, ate with Sean Penn and Madonna, and abandoned his typewriter for an Apple Mac - removed him from the margins and too often blunted his edge.

Still, in his dotage Bukowski produced at least one collection, *Last Night of the Earth Poems*, that ranks among his finest work. The flow of letters never ceased, and

he carried on contributing to small magazines such as *Bent Scene*. He remained faithful to Black Sparrow, refusing huge advances from one of the larger publishing houses in favour of what he called "uncensored acceptability".

He said in 1974: "It may sound egotistical, but I think I'll be a late discovery. I think people will see the clarity and simplicity in my work, and appreciate it for those qualities."

On 9 March 1994, he died of leukaemia. At Musso & Frank, his favourite Hollywood restaurant, the barman cancelled the order for riesling and Liebfraumilch. There would be no more hangovers, but the Bukowski industry has a few vintage years to come.

*'Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life'* by Howard Soames is published tomorrow by Rebel Inc, price £16.99

## The oral surgeon in chief

### COMEDY

JACKIE MASON  
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE  
LONDON

JACKIE MASON used to be a rabbi, but he had to give it up because he couldn't take it seriously. He still can't take anything seriously, but he's in a rather more suitable job now - he's a comedian. And a remarkable one at that.

As he slouches on stage in an ordinary black, double-breasted suit, the stout, 64-year-old Mason, by his own admission, looks like nothing so much as an accountant. But once the monologue begins, his whole body springs into life - never has one man's shrug been so expressive. There is just no stopping him; some ideas simply drown in a gushing tide of words.

At the Playhouse on Monday night, he made a joke of the fact that he had unsuccessfully attempted to exit the stage four times. Imagine a wise-guy New York cabbie setting the world to rights - on fast-forward - and you get the picture.



Mason: best on Jews and Gentiles Geraint Lewis

Mason occasionally gives off the air of being the man that PC forgot. Some of his routines - particularly about blacks and gays - would have the right-on brigade peering hand-wringing letters to the *New Statesman*. It is not hard to see why he has been dubbed "the Bernard Manning of Brooklyn". But even his most offensive material is delivered with such a twinkle that you can't be sure it's not just another joke - on people's PC sensibilities.

All the same, he is on much safer - and funnier - ground with his overriding obsession - the difference between Jews and Gentiles. He is constantly toying with racial stereotypes, but in a way that is playful rather than pernicious. He can't, for instance, imagine John Glenn being Jewish. "If an old Jew came back to his house in Miami Beach and said, 'Hello, I'm going into space', can you picture the reaction of his wife? The whole

family would get together and say, 'what happened here?' Then she'd get suspicious - 'why can't you take me?'

He extends his reflections about Jewish characteristics to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attitude to the West Bank. "He'd like to give it back, but right now he can't. It's in his wife's name."

Mason even manages to weave his preoccupation into the Lewinsky case. "I don't believe a word of it. A Jewish girl is not interested in oral sex - an oral surgeon, maybe. To a Jewish girl, oral sex is talking about a condominium. The climax is when her mother moves in." He derides President Clinton's assertion that oral sex is not sex: "people are going up to hookers to get their money back."

Any stand-up who can still mine gems from the Clinton and Lewinsky saga - perhaps the most overworked seam in the history of comedy - is no comedy knutz.

To November 28. Box office: 0171-639 4409 JAMES RAMPTON

## Percy's great adventure

### CLASSICAL

THE GRAINGER EVENT  
ST JOHN'S  
SMITH SQUARE, LONDON

A CLASSICAL music event concluding with massed audience whistling of "Colonel Bogey"? It could mean only one thing: the iconoclastic spirit of Percy Aldridge Grainger, Australia's first musical genius, was abroad.

Not least among the instigators of Grainger's recent and welcome revival has been the pianist Penelope Thwaites, and this weekend of concerts, workshops, talks, demonstrations and general exuberance was largely her idea. Three daytime sessions included a visual tour of the Grainger Museum in Melbourne (the composer's extraordinary tribute to himself), demonstrations of his weird microtonal "butterfly piano", and even weirder whistling and shrieking "free music machines".

The Percy Grainger Chamber Orchestra, under Joe Conway, gave some of his better known pieces in performances that showed attention to Grainger's meticulous markings, while recollections of Grainger from friends and relatives added a personal touch - extracts at one point from a radio interview by John Amis created an almost uncanny impression of the composer's own presence at St John's.

A very enjoyable workshop with the BBC Singers and a cheerful and workmanlike Bo Holten was interspersed with a vigorous rendition of the

"The Merry Wedding" by the Chapman Studio Soloists and the pianist Antony Gray, plus a commendably clear and disciplined performance of a Bach transcription by the Eton Keyboard Ensemble.

The real musical meat of the occasion came in the two evening concerts, plus a splendid opening recital from the Kneller Hall Band, who gave full range to Grainger's special skill in wind and brass writing.

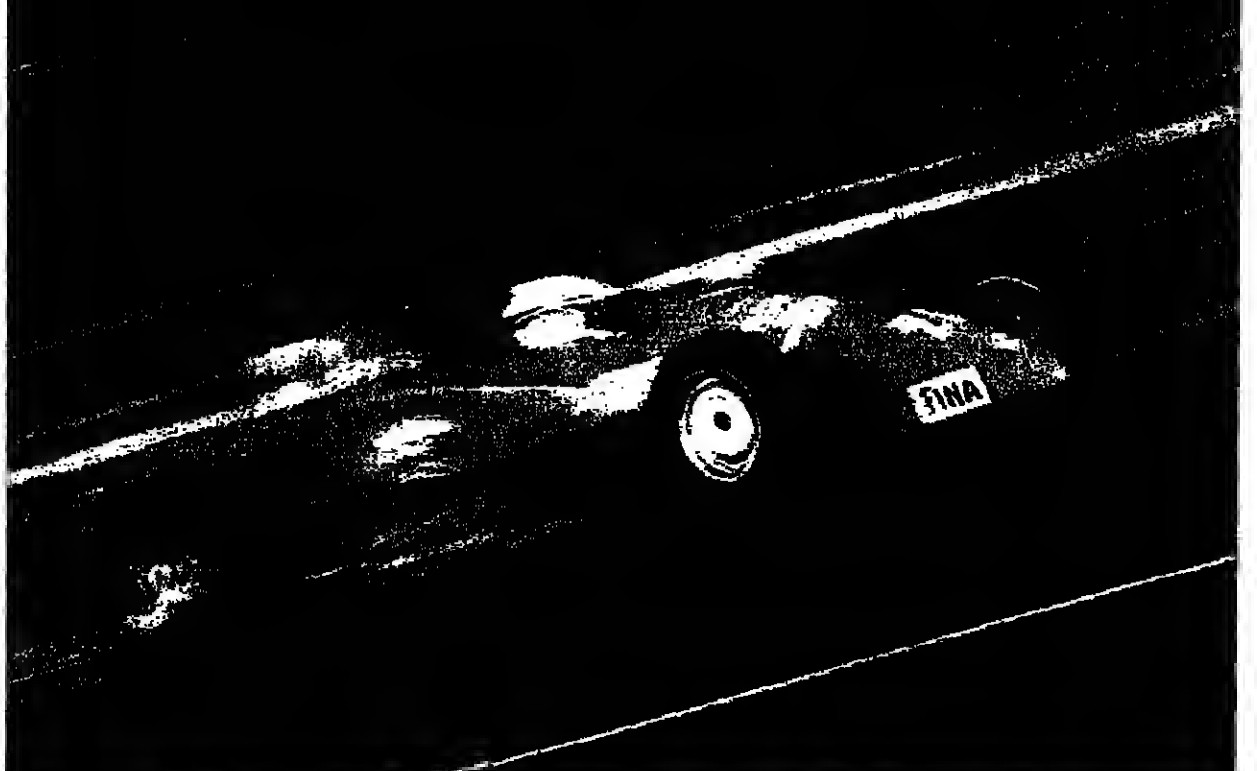
On Saturday Della Jones, Stephen Varcoe, James Gilchrist and Penelope Thwaites gave an enthralling programme of Grainger's songs, ranging from some of his most glorious folk song arrangements, through his remarkable settings of Kipling, written at the age of 16 or so, to the excruciatingly poignant tribute to

the memory of his mother, *The Power of Love*. The effect of the closing "Now, O now I needs must part" (from Dowland) was moving indeed.

By Sunday evening exuberance was the order of the day, when Penelope Thwaites was joined by John Lavender, Wayne Marshall and other players at three Steinway grand in a programme that included the immortal bugbear, "Country Gardens" and a premiere of *The Widow's Party March*, concluding with an 18-hand arrangement from Gerstwin's *Porgy and Bess* and the aforesaid theme from *Bridge over the River Kwai*. The audience cheered their approval - no doubt looking forward to another Grainger weekend next year.

LAURENCE HUGHES

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AT CIRCUITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Alan Bennett's play *Kafka's Dick* is a 'philosophical farce'. But isn't that a contradiction in terms? By Paul Taylor

# Whoops, professor, there go my trousers

The wittiest definition of a philosophical farce was provided by James Fenton back in the days when he was theatre critic of the *Sunday Times*. Reviewing Michael Frayn's *Balmoral*, he contended that, in this kind of drama, "the trousers of an idea are discovered around its ankles, a notion is interrupted in bed with a Postulate, or a Proposition sets its foot on a banana skin. To adapt the standard definition: ordinary men are discovered in extraordinary situations because of extraordinary reasoning."

Notions with their knickers in a twist, the *sine qua non* for this form of farce, are in abundant supply in *Kafka's Dick*, the Alan Bennett comedy which opens next week in its first London revival directed by Peter Hall. It's an astutely equivocal play about the English vice of purulent literary biography ("In England, facts like that pass for culture. Gossip is the acceptable face of intellect") and about a writer's ambivalent relationship to fame. Kafka is an ideal focus for this discussion, because he shrank from the intrusion of having his fiction – let alone his life – pored over by posterity. The play begins, however, with a scene that casts doubt on the sincerity with which the dying Czech author ordered his friend, Max Brod, to burn his writings.

Bennett creates an ingenious

farce scenario for testing Kafka's qualms by having him and Brod materialise decades later in the suburban Leeds, home of Sydney, an insurance man and confirmed Kafka buff who is writing an article about his hero for the trade journal *Small Print*. If Brod had kept his word, of course, Sydney's shelves would not be groaning with the products of the



The trouble with Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria' is that the material is just too anguishing

tireless Kafka industry (*Kafka's Lonelyness*, the *Agony of Kafka* etc). Cue a scene in which Brod and Sydney desperately try to sneak away all these offending volumes behind the back of our genius, who is still supremely ignorant of his posthumous celebrity.

There's a wry twist in this, though. Farce is a form normally populated by frighteningly single

minded characters. But Kafka, like the author of *Kafka's Dick*, is chronically in two minds about everything. So in one strand of the play, there's a calculated, drolly revealing mismatch between the genre and the leading character who is writhing, only half-horrified to discover he is a literary legend. The further joke is that as well as being the figure from whom things must be hidden, he is also the figure who has something embarrassing to hide. To conceal the fact that he has a tiny penis, he will have to rewrite the biographical record and deny that his overbearing father was a big prick.

Philosophical farce works best if there's an intriguing conceptual relationship between form and content, even when, as in *Kafka's Dick*, it consists in a witty discrepancy. Perhaps the most devilishly clever, neo-Stoppardian marriage between these elements to date was pulled off by Terry Johnson's 1993 play *Hysteria*, which is set in the mind of Sigmund Freud shortly before he died from cancer. The aged psychoanalyst has just, we are led to believe, been to see the famous Ben Travers farce *Rookery Nook*. What follows is like *Rookery Nook* after a severe collision with the surrealism of Salvador Dali. Indeed, the ego maniac Spanish painter arrives on the scene to discover a pressure-handaged Freud holding a bicycle covered in snails, with a hot water bottle attached, and a naked lady in his clasp.



Julia McKenzie, Denis Lill and Eric Sykes in Peter Hall's revival of 'Kafka's Dick'; left, Terry Johnson's 'Hysteria' Robbie Jack

et. "Maestro," he proclaims, sinking to his knees in admiration, "What Dali merely dreams, you live!"

The idea that Freud went to a performance of *Rookery Nook* is a naughty fabrication, reinforced by a po-faced programme note that succeeded in fooling a lot of people. What is not in dispute, though, is the fact that there is a perfect metaphoric correlation between farce and Freudian analysis. In springing such a play on him, the problem with *Hysteria* is that it includes material too anguishing to be accommodated in this uproarious scheme – specifically the charge that Freud, for defensive and opportunistic reasons, changed his view that child abuse is a fact to the theory that it is a fantasy borne of desire. In its awkward gear changes, *Hysteria* demonstrates how often philosophical farce is forced to suspend farcical operations or face the charge of exuberant heartlessness.

Form and content achieve a hither, cheekier, but no less telling partnership in *Blue Murder*, Peter Nichols' canny farce about theatrical censorship. In the second half of this work, a dramatist arrives at the swanky St James' Palace office or the Lord Chamberlain to defend the one-act play we have just seen in the first half. The date is 1967, the year before the Lord Chamberlain and his anachronistic team of retired military men lost their power. The excellent joke is that, while the sensors sit solemnly playing a blue pencil through any hint of impropriety in the script ("a stiff one" for a whisky instantly gets the chop), precisely the kind of kinkiness they would delight in removing from a play (bisexual, blackmailing guardians holed up in lavatories etc) is proliferating around them. Exposing this supposed bastion of respectability as a hotbed of hanky panky – the image of what it professionally abhors – is the play's

adroit, self-reflexive of spurring the absurdities of censorship.

Farce is a brutally difficult form to bring off and all the harder if the frantic physical shenanigans are meant to be the reflection of an intellectual debate – a sort of *No Sex Please, We're Neo-Hegelians*. There have, unsurprisingly, been some dismal failures, such as *The Life of the World to Come*, Rod Williams' limp, untidy farce about the ethics of cryogenics suspension. And the form has even defeated dramatists whose intelligence and powers of construction would, you'd have thought, earmark them as natural.

Despite a number of rewrites, Michael Frayn has never cracked the problem of *Balmoral*, a farce which takes off from the reverse-image idea that the Communist Revolution of 1917 took place in England. Frayn has subsequently argued that the play, with its counterfactual world, is inherently flawed.

But if that is so, it is hard to account for *Kafka's Dick* and *Hysteria*. Another reason for its comparative failure might be that the piece – in which a capitalist Russian journalist visits the State Writers' Colony at Balmoral and, through a series of farcical misunderstandings, is converted to ardent communism – never brings into sufficiently animated play the philosophical underpinnings of these opposed ways of life. There's a distinct shortage of conceptual twists.

Of course, the final twist in *Kafka's Dick* is that the play is comically complicit with the gossip culture it condemns. After all, if Kafka affects to be appalled at publications like *The Lonelyness of Kafka* and *Kafka's Agony*, he would surely also have a real job trying to keep his cool at a performance of *Kafka's Dick*.

Piccadilly Theatre, London (booking: 0171-369 1734)

## ON THE FRINGE

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

IT TAKES a certain intrepidity to call a show *Sell Out*. As a description of the youthful Frantic Assembly's latest offering, the title is a trifle misleading. Michael Wynne's play exposes the slip-knot bond of four twentysomething friends who, it emerges, are too frightened to have ever really bought into anything. As a forecast of the works reception on tour, though, it has proved uncannily accurate. To have had to add an extra date to their recent British Festival of Visual Theatre run looks like good fortune. To have packed out the Bull Theatre in Barret with

teens on a wet Friday night – as they did last week – looks nothing short of miraculous. If they can command this kind of attention at the end of the Northern Line, who knows what business they could drum-up in the centre of London.

It's not hard to fathom the appeal. Frantic – who have been operating since 1992 – continue to make an acting area as sexy as a dancefloor. Force 10 techno sounds come crashing in at every available opportunity; in the programme, a scrap of notepaper with a scrawled playlist of scenes ("love stairs", "secrets",

"sizequeer" etc) spells death to stuffy three-acters. The cast of four – in roles that steal their own christian names – display an agility normally reserved for steroid-enhanced Russian gymnasts. In skimpily tops and the usual club rig-out, Cait Davies, Scott Graham, Steven Hoggett and Ansty Thomas leap into each other's arms, dash each other to the ground and find countless ways of draping themselves off two moveable steel structures: a set of easily tipped up steps and what looks like a cross-sectioned WC. When they open their mouths to speak they sound so

unfazed they might have been just boiling the kettle.

But it's what they say that counts. The super fit expressionism (choreographed by T C Howard) runs parallel to the bruising attitudes that surface after the opening scene, in which a euphoric Stephen celebrates his birthday with girlfriend Kate and two best mates. In the cold, clear light of reflection, it dawns on him that everyone knew what was coming. Scott was a future rival while Ansty's gift, a self-help book, quietly declared her unthinking support for Kate's

cynical refusal to commit. Wynne sketches the emotional trench warfare that ensues with devastating economy. The wounding remarks can be transparently juvenile ("I really think the scabies brought us together; at least we had something in common when we had them"), but that's what gives *Sell Out* its integrity. Imagine a hormonally raging prequel to *Closer*, or *Pinker's Betrayal* with added beads per minute.

The physical skills deployed in the Scarlet Theatre company's *Stranded* are more subtly expressive than Frantic's bicep-

breaking contortions. But then, they have to be. Katarzyna Deszcz has chosen a simple, if vivid, storyline, based on the Italian judge and playwright Ugo Betti's *Crime on Goat Island*, about a thick-skinned stranger who invites himself into a remote house occupied by three women claiming to have befriended Agatha, the head of the household's husband before he died in a prison-of-war camp. It's the awkward silences, the mutual stinging up, rather than the terse dialogue that grips, though, as allegiances shift bringing ill-tempered rifts. As the

matriarch's sister-in-law and daughter, Jane Guernier and Sarah-Theresa Belcher provide strong support, rich in scatty detail, but it is Linda Kerr-Scott's abandoned widow Agatha who supplies the piece's tragicomic cores: her rapid neck movements suggest a startled farmyard goose, her pursed lips and severe eyes an eternity of strife between the sexes.

*'Stranded'*, Young Vic, London SE1, to 21 Nov. *'Sell Out'*, 13 Nov UEA, Norwich, 17 Nov, Theatre Studio, Scarborough and touring until March 1999

## The still, small voice of calm

IN SEPTEMBER, Sir Ian McKellen announced that he was abandoning the London stage – possibly for ever – to work at the West Yorkshire Playhouse for six months, disillusioned by the treadmill performance being cast before complacent middle-class and tourist-laden audiences. One can only assume that he was on cloud nine on Monday night, as the first of the productions staged by the repertory company under his aegis, and that of artistic director Jude Kelly, was unveiled. Surrounded by other critics and assorted glitterati (well, Prunella Scales), it wasn't the easiest night on which to spot the hallowed "real people", though there seemed a fair cumber tucking into ice-creams at half time.

### REVIEW

THE SEAGULL  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
PLAYHOUSE  
LEEDS

Whether it reaches the right people or not remains to be seen, but this *The Seagull*, as droll as it is elegant, is clearly a worthwhile revival. McKellen has wisely and fittingly opted to play the part of Dr Dorn. Wise, because the charismatic medic is the still centre around which the play's inflated and easily punctured bohemian egos whirl. He earns, rather than grabs, the limelight. Fittingly, because it is Dorn who encourages the novice playwright, Konstantin, in a search for a new dramatic aesthetic.



Clare Higgins and Clare Swinburne

McKellen does wonders to this potentially non-descript part, his Dorn a jovial old roué, reining in the vestiges of youthful waywardness. When he confronts Will Keop's wonderfully self-conscious Konstantin after the latter's abortive attempt to impress his fading actress

mother, Arkadina, with his high-flown poetic drama, you sense there is a life-and-talent-affirming enthusiasm in his avuncular advice. In his introduction to his succinct translation, Tom Stoppard suggests that Konstantin's dramatic efforts are too inert ever to succeed, but if anything, Jude Kelly's production reminds you that the intense young man is too surrounded by self-obsessives for anything truly lifelike to communicate itself in his art. You are aware of tiny toings and froings across the bare wooden stage that divides the audience in the Courtyard theatre – adorned at either end with a few stick-like trees and blank, charcoal-coloured facades – but the psychological stasis keeps breaking through.

Clare Higgins is a hustling Arkadina, dragging her writer-lover, Trigorin (gangly Timothy Walker), under the table. Her accompanying seduction ("you're the only hope for writing in Russia"), like many other lines, gets a laugh, but it also communicates how in sway affection is here to received ideas of success.

*The Seagull* was a notorious disaster when it opened in St Petersburg 100 years ago. Nowadays, it's easy to pay lip-service to its greatness. This production has an ensemble relish that allows an audience to bring as much, and take away as much, as it wants. And for that, Leeds is to be envied.

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## DEBUT

### A magnificent day on the flying trapeze

The actor: Anna Carteret  
The place: The Scala Theatre, London

The year: 1960

The role: Wendy in *Peter Pan*

THE FIRST major part I had, after a number of pantos – which I appeared in from the age of 12 – was as Wendy in *Peter Pan*, directed by Toby Robertson. It starred Donald Sinden as Captain Hook and Mr Darling, Pamela Lane as Mrs Darling, and Julia Lockwood as Peter. Our company manager was John Inman, who went on to be more famous than any of us.

I took over from Juliette Mills after she hurt her back on the flying harness. I was understudying and playing Tiger Lily. I came in for a Wednesday matinee at the half and they said, "You're on". I'd never flown before. They said: "Don't worry – when you go off into the bathroom to get into your nightie, you get hooked up. Just climb on to the mantelpiece, but don't jump or you'll bounce."



Anyway, I managed to fly upstage centre and I was so pleased with myself that when I landed on this mattress behind what was supposed to be an upstairs window, I got up and walked off. You could see my head poking up. Later, I had to fly and visit Peter up in his tree-house. My hat was covered with little bobbles that were supposed to be berries. One of these got caught on the wires, so I had to play the entire scene with my head to one side. I was laughing so much, I said, "Come along Nana, home", and the flying-crew who usually went into the pub

next door got an emergency call to come back and fly me off. It was fairly terrifying but a wonderful opportunity – it was like being in the West End straight away. I was only 17. The dancing training I'd received undoubtedly helped me take to the air – you have to arch your back otherwise you look like a sack of potatoes. We played London over Christmas then toured for 13 weeks.

After that, I wrote to all the repertory theatres. The only one that replied was Forbes Robertson at Butlin's in Skegness. So I went there for six months. I learnt a lot – but it was strange. The plays were cut to fit the campers' schedules and the director ended up in a lunatic asylum.

INTERVIEW BY  
DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Anna Carteret is in the RSC's *'Richard III'* at Stratford-upon-Avon, till Sat (01789 295623), transferring to the Savoy Theatre, London WC2 (0171-336 8888) on 18 Jan

### SERENA MACKESY

There were moments in *'The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star'* which wrung bellows of laughter from these cynical old lungs

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 20



Claim a lump sum and get an annuity, too. By Abigail Montrose



There is no need to ease up on your lifestyle when you retire if you play the pension game to your advantage

## Let the tax man pay your pension

**P**ersonal pensions are one of the most tax-efficient savings schemes around. They are aimed at anyone who is not in a company pension scheme, and offer generous tax breaks.

You make your contributions from your net (taxed) income and the pension provider then claims the tax you have already paid on this money and invests it in your pension.

The effect of this for basic-rate taxpayers is that, for every £77 you pay in, £100 is invested in the fund.

Those paying 40 per cent income tax fare even better. They have to pay only £60 into their pension scheme for a £100 investment to be made.

Because of this generous tax treatment, there are limits on the amount you can invest.

If you have not made the maximum tax-free contributions to which you are entitled, it may not be too late to make these up, explains Craig Foreman, of the independent financial advisers MPL.

He says: "The carry-back

rules allow people to use up any relief from the previous year that they haven't already used. The carry-forward rules then allow you to catch up on any missed premiums in the previous six years."

The rules are quite complex, so it is worth getting professional help. The ideal way to build up your pension is to start early and make adequate regular contributions.

If you got off to a slow start, then you should look to make up for this as soon as possible by increasing your contributions and, where possible, using up unused relief from previous tax years.

This can be particularly advantageous for the over-50s who may now have more money to invest in their pensions as a result of their children having grown up and the mortgage having been paid off.

Under the personal pension rules, you can start to draw benefits from your pension once you hit age 50. You can take up to 25 per cent of your pension money as tax-free cash, and the rest must be used to buy an

annuity whose purpose is to provide you with an income for the rest of your life.

If you reach your 50s and have not put as much into your pension as you would like, then by using the carry-back and carry-forward rules you can invest large sums for a relatively small outlay, and so rapidly boost the size of your pension pot.

Say you have £50,000 of unused relief. As a higher-rate taxpayer you could pump this much into your pension with a net contribution of £30,000 (the other £20,000 comes from reclaimed tax).

You can then immediately withdraw 25 per cent (£12,500) of this tax-free. So your net investment would be £17,500 (your original £30,000, less the £12,500 cash you took back) but you would have boosted your pension pot by £37,500 (the £50,000 invested in your pension, less the £12,500 cash you took).

"If people can afford it, this is one way for late arrivals at the pension party to give themselves a reasonable-sized pen-

sion fund for a relatively low cost," says Mr Foreman.

Even if you are on the verge of retiring, you may still be able to take advantage of the tax rules, says Peter Quinton, managing director of the Annuity Bureau.

Say you are in the last year of contributing to your pension scheme before you start taking benefits, and £10,000 can still be invested in your pension. As a higher-rate taxpayer, you would require a net contribution of only £5,000 to make the £10,000 investment.

Once this contribution is made, you then withdraw 25 per cent of the £10,000 as tax-free cash, leaving £7,500 (£10,000, less the £2,500 cash) to buy an annuity. So far a net investment of £2,500 (your £5,000, less the £2,500 cash you took back) you will have £7,500 in your fund to set aside for the annuity.

This money would typically buy a 60-year old man an annuity paying £600 a year, says Quinton, so your £2,500 investment is yielding £600 gross a year, which is a gross return of 17 per cent per annum.

## Retirement is a risky business

NOW IS not a good time to be retiring. Of course there may not always be a choice, but in financial terms, retirement could hardly come at a worse moment. Not only is the stock market very uncertain, therefore affecting the value of the pension fund that buys the annuity or income for life, but annuity rates have dropped dramatically in the past few weeks. All this represents a double hit for those who have saved all their lives in order to enjoy their leisure time.

There is not much that can be done about the state of the stock market. A smaller fund means that the income for the rest of someone's life will be reduced. Also, deciding on an annuity means that the rate of income is once again fixed for the rest of an investor's life. Is there a solution?

Delia was in exactly this position. She had decided that she wished to retire about a year ago. Her pension fund was £120,000 and available to purchase retirement benefits. She also had a capital sum that would provide an increased income for her. Delia plans to enjoy her retirement. She

### THE FIXERS



AMANDA DAVIDSON

would like to travel, visit friends, spend more time with her family and she wishes to make some home improvements. Having earned a good income, she is having to readjust her sights and realises that she is not going to be as financially well off as before retirement. However, with both financial and personal planning, the negative effects of a reduced income can be controlled.

We looked at the draw-down option in place of taking an annuity. A draw-down arrangement is where the money stays invested, but the client can take an income. The advantage is that if investments perform well, the income can

increase. Also, it means that an individual can delay fixing an annuity until times are better, although no later than 75. The disadvantage is that if investment performance falters, this means a cut in income and there is no guarantee that annuity rates will increase.

However, it is certainly worth considering and working through the figures to see whether the increased risk is advisable. In the end, Delia decided that opting for draw-down was too risky. This was correct as she has other monies which are invested and therefore already subject to the ups and downs of the stock market. No doubt her view on this was coloured by the recent downturn in the market.

So looking at a spread of investments we were then back to an annuity. The best arrangement that we could find at the time was a level annuity of £2,500 from Norwich Union. We decided on a level annuity as it takes some time for increasing annuities to catch up and there is the benefit of having the money earlier. In addition, the extra lump sum investments that Delia

has would enable her to take an increasing income in the future.

However, there is a third option which worked well for Delia. That is to consider a with-profits annuity. Looking at the with-profits annuity figures, we discovered that Delia can take an income of some £9,500 for the rest of her life. In order to maintain this income, the pension fund must achieve a growth rate of only 6 per cent a year, net of charges.

Thus, as far as risk is concerned, Delia is treading a middle road between the guarantee of an annuity, and the more extreme positives and negatives of a draw-down by opting for the with-profits annuity.

Once again this shows the benefits of looking at all the options. It is essential to look at a person's complete financial circumstances, particularly at such a crunch time as retirement. Even in these troubled times, there are workable options for those facing retirement.

Amanda Davidson is a partner of Holden, Meehan, independent financial advisers (0171 692 1700)

There's still hope if you've made a bad investment. By John Andrew

DESPITE THE fact that the Financial Services Act was passed in 1986, hundreds of people each year are sold inappropriate investments or given advice that is not suitable to their situation. If this happens to you, where should you go for advice?

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) Ombudsman Bureau resolves disputes between customers and the providers of investment products regulated by the PIA - independent financial advisers, building societies and banks.

Its principal ombudsman is Anthony Holland, a solicitor. The bureau's budget is made up of a contribution from the PIA's regulatory fees and by a flat fee of £500 per case, to be paid by

## When fools rush in

the firm about whom a complaint is made.

Before the PIA will look at a complaint, the matter must first have been referred to the firm concerned. The firm will acknowledge the complaint within seven working days and should complete its investigation within two months. The firm will then send a letter rejecting or accepting the complaint. If the latter, it will state the settlement being offered.

Should the outcome not be satisfactory, it is then that the complainant should contact the bureau. However, it cannot investigate:

- The terms of mortgages and other loans, unless connected with an investment;
- Bank and building society deposits;
- A mere fluctuation in the value of an investment.

Although the complainant has no right of appeal, legal re-

dress can be sought through the courts. An aggrieved firm can apply to the court for a judicial review if it is able to show that the ombudsman's decision was unfair, or was against the evidence, or was wrong in law. Such reviews, however, are rare.

The amount for which the ombudsman can make a binding award is limited to £100,000, or £20,000 per annum for permanent health insurance. However, this does not mean that the recommended award cannot be higher. The highest award ever made was £400,000.

The PIA Ombudsman Bureau may be contacted at: Hertsmere House, Hertsmere Road, London E14 4JB (0171 216 0016)

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# Time Whitehall got its hands dirty

How would you feel if personal details held by the NHS and the DVLA were put up for sale? With Labour's commitment to linking public and private sectors, that day may be nearer than you think. By Paul Gosling

ANYONE WHO believed that the commercialisation of the public sector would end when Labour replaced the Conservatives in government was very much mistaken. Amid all the hype over the Public Finance Initiative and Best Value, a third and perhaps equally important concept has been overlooked - joint ventures between the public and private sectors.

Moves to promote partnership enterprises between business and public bodies have been moving ahead at speed. Last month, a conference was organised jointly by the Treasury and Ernst & Young which examined how to spot joint venture opportunities, and next week there is a follow-up event from PriceCooperswaterhouse and the Treasury on how these partnership arrangements can work.

Opening the first event, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said that the public sector's physical and intellectual assets should be put to more productive use, to generate income for public bodies and their commercial partners. He said that it was an important element in achieving the higher productivity targets set for the public sector by the Chancellor.

"This initiative is also about changing the culture in Whitehall," added Mr Robinson. "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently rather than just telling them to do so. It's about the Treasury giving guidance and support to a partnership in government, as well as between government and the private sector."

Mr Robinson raised the possibility of surprising opportunities. The idea of making more use of publicly owned buildings is hardly new, but the Government is also talking of earning income from the release of some of its databases and internal know-how. The Treasury points out that this will not involve the release of confidential private information, which is protected by the Data Protection Act. But it does want to see more public bodies look for commercial opportunities, in the

way that the Meteorological Office is selling forecasts to businesses. It is even possible that the NHS may be encouraged to sell to drug companies generic or anonymised clinical information on patients' illnesses and recovery rates, to raise revenue for the service. But highly political decisions like this have not yet been taken.

Ralph Ainsworth, a managing consultant with Ernst & Young's public and network services division, was involved in organising the conference. He says that public bodies, particularly the arm's-length executive agencies, were given direction on how to make their operations more commercial, backed by stronger incentives to do so.

"We stressed that it was important that the public sector saw assets not just as costs, but as value providers," says Mr Ainsworth. "These assets may include brands and intellectual assets, though this needs clarification."

Mr Ainsworth says that there are databases held by agencies that have a strong commercial value.

"The Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency has a customer list that could be used, and maybe anonymised so that there is no risk of intrusion of privacy," suggests Mr Ainsworth.

"In other areas there are different types of classification of information, where there is a judgement to be made on how far you go."

This conference was mainly aimed at the executive agencies, which now employ the majority of civil servants to deliver services on behalf of government.

"The policy will find ground to grow at the agencies," says Mr Ainsworth. "They are closer to markets and to commercial activity."

But the approach is also being promoted to local government. A few days earlier, Hilary Armstrong, Minister for Local Government and Housing, announced the go-ahead for a range of additional Best Value pilot schemes, where councils have been given exemption from compulsory competitive tendering

arrangements in order to develop partnerships. Ms Armstrong said that partnerships with the private sector were an essential element in the Best Value regime. The Best Value partnership pilots include a joint venture between several councils in the South-west to outsource their payroll administration to achieve economies of scale. In another project, three Yorkshire councils are to combine their internal audit services, and will bid for contracts with new clients. A Public Sector/Plc Partnership Network has been established to promote joint ventures between local councils and businesses, to attract new capital and a more commercial outlook in a range of trading activities - several leading companies have already signed up to the project. And a franchise scheme has been approved, to be run by ICL and Barony, to run revenue collection and benefits and other administration IT projects, in which councils will be able to work together to achieve economies of scale.

Further partnership schemes between councils and the private sector may be approved, even before Best Value legislation is enacted. The Department of the Environment says that additional exemptions will be given to local authorities to opt out of CCT legislation if it helps them prepare for the Best Value regime, and assists the Government to evaluate innovative ways of working with commercial partners.

Recognising this trend towards partnering, a new guide has just been published by the Public Private Partnerships Programme (the 4Ps). This examines the experience of the London Borough of Lambeth, which externalised its blue-collar direct services organisation to the private contractors ServiceTeam. Lambeth believed that this would be the only route to attracting new capital investment into the DSO, improve the operation's efficiency and ensure that a major contractor was based in the borough, providing job opportunities for residents.

Peter Fanning, chief executive of



Geoffrey Robinson: "It's about giving departments incentives to operate efficiently"

Alisdair MacDonald

4Ps, says that the lessons from Lambeth's experience - where they were advised by the specialist lawyers Eversheds - was that local councils do not need to wait for Best Value legislation to adopt a partnering approach, nor do they need to worry unduly about European Union procurement laws.

"A lot of things can be done within existing rules - it doesn't need a change in primary legislation to

have flexibility," says Mr Fanning. "What our guide demonstrates is that within the existing framework it is possible to procure a partner, rather than a supplier. That means that instead of working up detailed specifications under the Private Finance Initiative or whatever, you can procure a partner with a view to jointly working up the specification at an earlier stage in the procurement process."

"The private sector supplier is then involved in the innovative process, rather than just responding to a tendering advertisement where someone else is doing the innovation. This guidance should allow local authorities and private sector partners to work together co-operatively, and I hope innovatively, while working within the EU procurement rules. What the private sector doesn't want to do is to work up a scheme, and

then see the local authority put the whole contract out to tender."

And what the Government does want is for the public sector to get its hands dirtier by getting stuck into commercial opportunities. To do this, as Geoffrey Robinson concedes, involves a massive change in public sector culture.

How well it is able to challenge that ingrained culture will be well worth watching.

## Longest working week and highest divorce rate: any link?

"WELL, DON'T you think it's a bit worrying that I've spent two evenings this week with Olivier and four with Jaap?" I ask Jane during one of our rare weekend outings. "After all, Olivier's the one I'm going out with. Jaap's just my deputy boss."

Jane puts down her fork for a second and wrinkles her nose the way she does when she's giving something the benefit of all her immense brainpower.

"Mmm," she finally proffers, "but then you've spent four evenings with Rory, as well, and you're hardly in danger of falling for him. You're just bonding with your new colleagues, that's all."

Stop fretting about it. Pudding? I'm having one.

Anyway, what with Jane's common sense and the warm chocolate torte with saffron cream, I start to feel a great deal better. After all, I can't be the only person in the City who socialises less with their boyfriend or girlfriend than with the people they work with.

Hardly surprising, given the hours we all put in at the office. You'd think some policy-maker somewhere might have noticed that not only do the British have the longest working week in Europe, we also have the highest divorce rate, and maybe put two

and two together - but I wouldn't hold your breath on this one.

Then there's the added problem that when you do finally get to meet up, it's often at some dinner party where everyone says: "Oh, we can't have couples sitting next to each other," as if we're all still lecherous landed gentry, and you end up talking to some rugby-playing stockbroker while your jet-setting Frenchman is at the other end of the room trying to look interested in the in-jokes of a couple of Sloane school-leavers.

"A recent event?" asks Jane sympathetically, and I nod. "Friday," I say. "It was



THE TRADER

terrible. We managed five minutes' conversation."

Jane murmurs sympathetically and settles down to tell me of all the dinner parties, weddings and general buntings where she, too, has been kept firmly away from the boyfriend of the time.

"After six months of that, I knew less about the last one than when I first met him. Every week I forgot more. In the end we just gave up. No wonder so many people fall for someone at work."

Only, naturally, I will not be following suit, as I tell Jane. After all, I point out, I didn't fall for anyone in the last place, and

just because the only available male was the odious and deeply unattractive Neil doesn't make my willpower any the less admirable. Jane raises her right eyebrow at this, which means that (a) she doesn't believe me, and (b) that she's been watching far too many Roger Moore films.

"The name's Bond, Jane Bond," I tease, and for a few minutes I manage to stop her talking about people who fall for other people in the office.

But she's a game girl, and easily deflected from the main thread of the conversation, and soon we're back almost where we began, with me pointing out

how disastrous it can be to get too heavily involved with someone at work.

"Look at the high drama at the last place, with Rory and Sam," I say. "It was bad enough as a spectator. Imagine being a participant. No, I think it's the worst idea in the world to go out with a colleague, and I'm never going to do it."

"Well, anyway," Jane says sweetly, "there's no danger of that in this case. You've already told me you don't find Jaap the least bit attractive."

"No," I reply decisively. "I don't fancy him at all." And even I believed it.

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### IN BRIEF

**COMPANIES COULD** be destroyed by the "deadly" trio of virtualisation, digitalisation and convergence, according to KPMG Management Consulting. Ian Jones, principal consultant with the firm, told a London conference that "the technology trinity" could be far more devastating than well-known challenges, such as EMU and the Year 2000 Problem because of the cumulative effect of the trends. "When combined, they can create a critical mass that brings devastating change almost overnight," he said.

**THE DEPARTMENT** of Trade and Industry's plans to introduce a new corporate entity, the limited liability partnership, have been strongly supported by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. The institute has been lobbying with the large firms for a reform of the law on liability on the grounds that it is claimed that existing legislation allows auditors to be unfairly targeted by aggrieved investors when companies collapse. Although the draft law would reduce the exposure of individual

partners rather than the whole firm, the organisation welcomes the move.

**SMALL AND** medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face cash-flow problems as a result of tax changes to leasing finance contained in Gordon Brown's first Budget in July 1997. The Finance & Leasing Association says its figures for the year to September 1998 show asset finance business growing by just 4 per cent, compared with 11 per cent in the previous 12 months. It attributes the lower rate to a decrease in the tax allowances that can be claimed on leased assets.

**CATER ALLEN** Bank has responded to its research on foreign banking services for SMEs by launching a Euro-denominated bank account for such businesses. Companies will be able to open immediately an account in Euros, which will be converted into Pounds from 1 January 1999. A Euro Visa Card will also be available from that date. Cater Allen's survey of readers of "Export Trade" magazine showed that nearly

half of companies expressed a need for Euro banking facilities from January 1999.

**LLOYDS TSB** Commercial Finance has published a free guide to invoice discounting with the aim of demystifying the jargon and providing a checklist of issues to consider and questions to ask. Ted Etterbank, managing director of Lloyds TSB CF, said that invoice discounting was a fast-growing business. However, he added that companies had to "get it right first time" - and the guide was "the ideal way" to make sure of that.

**BDO, THE** international accounting and consulting organisation of which Stoy Hayward is part, has strengthened its presence in Belgium through merging with Fiduciaire J Van Breda & Co, one of the leading Antwerp firms.

**SELF-EMPLOYED** people are being warned that they face paying more than twice as much tax in January 1999 as they did the previous year as a

result of the move to self-assessment and the related change to taxing them on current year's earnings. Accountants at Arthur Andersen are urging them to work out their liability urgently so that they plan their finances accordingly. Failure to do so could mean that they are unable to pay the bills and are therefore going to be subject to interest charges on top of the tax itself.

**UK EXECUTIVES'** pay is at a similar level to that of their counterparts in other European countries, according to the latest survey of directors' and senior managers' pay across Western Europe. The study by Monks Partnership, the remuneration specialists, says that, after taking account of tax and the cost of living, the UK director ranks eleventh out of 16 in the table, but points out that the spread covering half the countries is small. Switzerland tops the list, with a director of a £50m turnover subsidiary company receiving £76,600 a year, while Finland is bottom, earning £29,700 after tax and cost-of-living adjustments. **ROGER TRAPP**

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# Celebrities and cellulite



Sharon Scott: 'It's funny seeing Barbara Windsor in relaxed mode sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking very glamorous' Keith Dobney

I didn't know much about health farms until I went to Champneys with my mother several years ago. We had a super time away from everyday interruptions, so when I saw this position advertised it sounded perfect. But having been out of the workplace for a while, I was really surprised to be offered the job.

I have two roles. One is what I call "looking after Stephen", which includes anything a normal PA would do, including dry-cleaning, diary and travel arrangements. The other involves quite a lot of marketing, and arranging celebrity visits.

Stephen lives between his three health farms. Henlow Grange in Bedfordshire, Forest Mere in Hampshire and Springs in Leicestershire. I've suggested that he get a helicopter to make the travelling easier. It's been particularly stressful in the last 12 months because we have had the BBC filming a fly-on-the-wall series about the refurbishment of Forest Mere, which has added to the workload.

## I WORK FOR SHARON SCOTT WORKS FOR STEPHEN PURDEW, SALES AND MARKETING DIRECTOR OF THE HENLOW GRANGE HEALTH FARMS GROUP

Whereas I have a work life and a home life, Stephen's boundaries are blurred. Even when he is socialising he is also working, and his address book reads like a Who's Who of celebrities. The higher the profile of the people who visit the farms, the better it is for business, because it helps attract customers on the "if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me" basis. Working with celebrities wasn't something I expected to be doing, but it certainly makes my job more exciting. Of course, there are the few stars who need adoration, and some of the younger ones can get a little too big for their boots, but most want to put on a fluffy dressing-gown like everyone else and just merge into the background.

Frank Bruno, Jimmy Savile and Barbara Windsor are among the reg-

ulars. It's funny seeing Barbara in relaxed mode, sitting with the other guests, when you're used to seeing her looking terribly glamorous. You can tell how long people have been staying here by their appearance. If their shoulders are still hunched up then they've just arrived, but if they are gliding along the corridor looking peaceful and relaxed, then they have been here a couple of days.

Since Stephen lives on site he eats very healthily, and he also uses the facilities. He believes absolutely in what he does, and so do I. I think it's important that I look fit, too, which I do because I teach ballet to children at the weekend.

We had the Big Breakfast here the other day, which meant that I had to be in at 5am to be ready for them. It

was a complicated job because the producer wanted the presenters to knock on the bedrooms of three VIP guests with three different types of breakfast. I was terribly worried that none of our guests would be willing to open their doors to a television crew at such an early hour. I needn't have worried, because they fell over themselves to be chosen.

On another occasion we had two film crews at Henlow at the same time. One crew were filming a hunting and shooting programme, the other crew were with a daytime beauty show. Everyone was getting confused about which crew was which and I feared a disaster. Luckily we got through it OK.

I think that the reason why Stephen and I have such a good rapport is because I manage to stay calm.

Stephen once said to me, "I don't suppose you ever get angry." Of course I do, but I just don't let it show at work. He warned me that there would be times when he would shout at me when he was stretched, but he never has. Although Stephen is terribly busy we still manage to have a very easy-going relationship. We often pull each other's legs, and there's a lot of banter between us.

When I get stressed I nip down to the treatment rooms and get a quick massage, but luckily this job is mainly mine to three so I can be home for my children after school. Because he's a father himself Stephen is very accommodating when I need time away to be with my children. He even gives them signed CDs from pop stars, which ups their street credibility at school no end. This job has been everything I hoped it would be and more. I received a letter the other day complimenting me on my work, which was very rewarding.

INTERVIEW BY  
KATIE SAMPSON

## Ivana comes up trumps yet again

The final instalment of the Temp's adventures in publishing and sales



### THE TEMP

AND THIS is when I realise that Martin keeps his outfit profitable by ripping off his staff. Not all of them, obviously: just the ones who show up with big signs hanging round their necks reading "Sucker". Never, ever, trust someone you think is a friend in business. It'll be too late when you find out the truth.

No pay packet. Four weeks I've been with this outfit, and then there's no pay packet. Ivana has walked past me, and when, going cold all over, I've gone, "Ivana, how about me?" she has turned with the largest grin I've ever seen crossing her face. "You do you mean, exactly?" she says. "I was wondering where my pay was." She pauses, frowns a little, rolling her eyes to heaven to simulate an attempt to recall. "You pay?" Something big and phlegmy has blocked my throat. "The pay for the month I've been working here," I squeak. "No," says Ivana, and it feels like being played with by a very sadistic cat. "I done unnerstand." "I've sold 21 slots. That should be over £1,000 in commission."

Ivana looks puzzled, then fakes leaping back in amazement. "Aah, no, no, no, no, no," she says. "I sink you are mistaken, Amy."

She still hasn't got my name straight. "How do you mean, mistaken?" "Bud Amy," says Ivana, "you are here as a trainee. You are here to learn. And I heff to say, I done sink you heff learned very well. Ze scribb."

"No," I say, finging myself to my feet. "You can't be serious. I sold those ads fair and square." Ivana gives me the look that chills. "Ve heff given you a chance, Amy," she says. "You came asking for help, and ve heff given you help. Is zis how you are going to repay us?"

I rush to Martin's office, and bash on the glass panel. A voice goes. "Come in," and I hurt in to the room. Martin is in his leather director's chair behind his leather-topped desk. "Ah, Laura," he says. "What can I do for you?" He fiddles with his cufflinks. Today I notice, they are little silver skulls and crossbones. He stepples his fingers, presses them to his lips, looks at me.

"There's been a

mistake." I stutter. "Mistake?" enquires Martin. "How so?" "The 21 ads I've sold, I haven't been paid for them." "Paid?" says Martin, and sits so far back in his chair I think it's going to tip over. "How so, paid?" This can't be happening. "Commission," I say. "The 10 per cent commission." Martin laughs gaily. "Commission? You want us to pay you commission? But Laura, I'm doing you a favour here. The way I see it, you ought to be paying us." "WHAT?" "Well," he tips forward, fetches a cigar from the box on his desk, clips the end off with a silver clipper, lights it. "Well," he says as he sucks, "the way I see it is that -"

He sits back, blows a smoke ring at the ceiling. "You've had a damn good training here. You are beginning to have a skill you didn't have a month ago, and we've let you have access to our phones, our desk space, our lists, and Ivana's expertise for absolutely nothing. I agreed to give you training. I must say, I think you're being very ungrateful."

"You've got to be kidding." "Kidding? Far from it. You told me you didn't have a job, didn't you?" "Yes." "And I told you we didn't have anything here, didn't I?" "Yes." "Well," I thought, "I fight for words. Then, pathetically, I thought we were friends." "Friends? You're somebody I bumped into at a cocktail party and did a favour for. I don't believe this. This is the last time I - get out." He rises from behind the desk, bears down on me, and I find myself backing toward the door. The scene I witnessed when I first came here rising in my memory.

"You can't do this!" I shout as he propels me from his office. "You can't! I earned that money fair and square! I'll bloody well sue you if I have to." "Sue away, Laura," he says. "And if you can show your lawyer a copy of our contract, you may have a leg to stand on."

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## TELEPHONIST TYPIST

For Office Equipment Co., near Lambeth Tube Station. Very busy switchboard, Regent, 20 lines, 70 extensions. Applicant must be proficient with professional and friendly manner, ability to type accurately using Word for Windows, good references and stable career history important.  
**Salary: £13k.**

Please telephone Mr David Smith on 0171 582 5555

## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

We are a rapidly expanding executive search consultancy founded in 1988, our enviable client base is a direct result of our ability to operate in a dynamic and competitive market, equipped with professional and hard work.

\* We believe we are offering a unique opportunity for a special individual with impeccable secretarial skills.

\* The role involves facilitating the running of a professional business. This includes significant contact with clients and responsibilities, equipped with day-to-day secretarial

\* The position offers real involvement and autonomy and would suit an individual who seeks to be stretched.

Please phone Emmanuel or Allan on 0171 859 1119 fax 0171 859 0110 or by email on lucy@linking-group.co.uk

0171 292 1550



## NEW FILMS

### ANTZ (PG)

Director: Eric Darnell, Tim Johnson  
Starring: Woody Allen, Sharon Stone (voices)  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right  
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin, Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

### GIRLS TOWN (15)

Director: Jim McKay  
Starring: Lili Taylor, Brucklin Harris, Anna Grace  
Semi-improvised acting lends an effectively baggy rhythm to this coarse-grained tale of three high-school pals (Lili Taylor, Brucklin Harris, Anna Grace) thrown into crisis by a friend's suicide. *Girls Town* lacks its predictable rites-of-passage drama with a harsh, blue-collar twist. Cue graffiti streets, a hip-hop soundtrack and plenty of slangy, Noo Jolley backchat. Although McKay's flick descends into preachiness at times, the tough, committed playing soon hoists it up again.  
West End: ABC Piccadilly

### MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Director: Ken Loach  
Starring: Peter Mullan, Louise Goodall  
Back home after a pair of uncharacteristic foreign ventures (*Land and Freedom*, *Coriolanus*), Ken Loach has rusted up the solid social-realist tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between old life (drugs, crime) and new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). Turn a blind eye to Paul Laverty's faintly stock, schematic screenplay, and *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line. Mullan's muscular, charismatic performance binds the whole thing smartly together.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gale Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

### THE PLAYERS CLUB (18)

Director: Ice Cube  
Starring: Lisa Raye  
This virginal writing-directing gig from LA rapper Ice Cube is a right muddle. On the face of it, *The Players Club* affects to lift the lid on America's seedy black strip joints, and shakes its head disapprovingly at the sight. Trouble is, Mr Cube can't drag his camera away from all that sweet, honeyed flesh for long enough to make his point. So, as our embattled Girl Power heroine (Lisa Raye) fights against the system, the film's gaze keeps wandering towards the floor show. Stripping's a bad thing to happen to a nice lady. Cube seems to be saying. But whoah - just look at that nice lady strip.  
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

### SNAKE EYES (15)

Director: Brian De Palma  
Starring: Nicolas Cage, Gary Sinise, John Heard  
De Palma's Atlantic City-set conspiracy thriller plays its mystery plotline as a kind of quickie jigsaw, slotting together a patchwork of flashbacks, split screens and action replays to create the intricate staging behind a political assassination. Our nominal puzzle-solver is Nic Cage's swaggering local cop, whose harried investigation soon brings him smack up against Gary Sinise's rigid Navy commander. Meanwhile, the director's flamboyant magpie touch (borrowing a little from *Rashomon*, a little from *No Way Out*) keeps the whole thing looking big and bright and gaudy.  
West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin, Chelsea

Xan Brooks

## GENERAL RELEASE

### AIR BUD (U)

A ludicrous yet entertaining tale about a young boy who moves to a new town after the death of his father and befriends a basketball-playing dog. What will snare audiences is the catalogue of tricks, deftly performed by the canine Buddy. Yet, equally importantly, the film is nicely paced and enjoyable for both adults and children.  
West End: UCI Whiteleys

### EAST SIDE STORY (U)

This oddball documentary spotlights the propagandist entertainment that flourished behind the Iron Curtain. *Volga, Volga* was Stalin's favourite movie, while Frank Shobel's hormonal antics in 1968's *Hot Summer* had him labelled "the Elvis of the East". Hollywood frivolities retold in strict Soviet fashion. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill

### ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Baker Street, Curzon Mayfair, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

### EVER AFTER (PG)

Drew Barrymore stars as a 16th-century daddy's girl who is tormented by her beastly stepmother (Angelica Huston) after her father's death but finds hope in the arms of a handsome prince. This might more accurately have been entitled *Cinderella 2002*. West End: Odeon Kensington, Warner Village West End

### THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RERELEASE) (18)

What was most shocking back in 1973 looks oddly ho-hum today. Where Bill Friedkin's chiller still chills is in its haunting secondary elements, in the snarling, distorting soundtrack and ultra-elegant pacing - those still moments between the storms. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### FUNNY GAMES (18)

This attack on screen violence views like a harsh lab experiment: mix one family unit with two psychopaths (Arno Frisch, Frank Giering), then sit back and watch the fireworks. It discreetly cuts away during its more shocking moments, yet is big on gruesome sound effects. The cast-intriguing claustrophobia leaves you fighting for breath. West End: Metro, Curzon Mtnema, Ritzy Cinema

### HALLOWEEN: H20 (18)

Twenty years after the events of the original *Halloween*, our resident psychopath returns to terrorise the one that got away - his sister (Jamie Lee Curtis). Standard shocks with a glazing of post-modern in-jokes. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### I WANT YOU (18)

A torrid tale of a hairdresser (Rachel Weiss) preyed on by her ex-con ex-boyfriend (Alessandro Nivola). Cue deep pockets of secrecy and sudden surges of murky sex en route to a grim finale. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

### LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels' defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thieves, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

### MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from combat. This has got it all: a pro-active heroine; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It is also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is not bad at all - the sort of gold-plated trash that Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: ABC Pantom Street, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### PRIMARY COLORS (15)

As Jack Stanton, John Travolta's performance amounts to a bravura, vaudeville impersonation of Clinton, and you can't take your eyes off him. The film does brilliant things with narrative, symbolism and farce, but doesn't leave its audience to draw their own conclusions. West End: Barbican Screen, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### RAZOR BLADE SMILE (18)

Eileen Daly's vampire assassin indulges her penchant for kinky sex, rubber catsuits and loaded weapons. Cobbled together on a skid-row budget, this boasts some of the most archly awkward dialogue this side of *Polecat Crest*. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town

### SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad to seek out a young private behind enemy lines. Few viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. West End: Plaza

### SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Inventive children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. The director, Joe Dante, draws some nice parallels with his own best film *Gremlins*. West End: Hammersmith, Virgin, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

### STILL CRAZY (15)

Clement and La Frenais-scripted comedy about a bunch of 1970s rockers reforming for a comeback tour. Hailing from *The Full Monty* school of feel-good fodder, *Still Crazy* boasts charm in abundance and a cluster of raucous gags. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)

Peter Weir's comedy about a man (played by Jim Carrey) who discovers that his whole existence has been televised since birth and broadcast to the world. The film is very funny, due more to Andrew Niccol's script than its star's presence. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

### VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) is a Bowie-esque idol; his friend Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a US rocker in the Lou Reed-*leggy* mould. The story of these characters is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) who, 10 years after the death of Slade, is dispatched to discover the truth behind the glam. Director Todd Haynes has fashioned a masterpiece in which form and content function as inseparable harmony. This film brims with a sense of the infinite possibilities of cinema. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### Film Xan Brooks

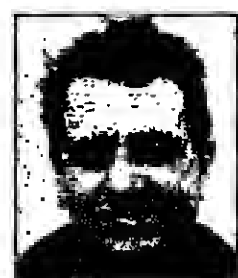
THE COMPUTER animation peddled by the likes of *Ty Story* and Dreamworks' fine *Antz* (left) still strikes Luddites like myself as a faintly soulless and fledgling innovation. Where *Antz* really hits home is in its more old-fashioned ingredients: in its *Metropolis*-style depiction of a totalitarian community; and in Woody Allen's wonderfully deft, funny reading of its worker-ant hero: "the middle child in a family of five million".  
On general release

Alternatively, check out John Huston's *War Stories*, a stark weave of archive interview footage, with extracts from two of the director's banned WWII documentaries (*The Battle of San Pietro*, *Let There Be Light*). Huston's war-is-hell message had the US authorities panicking. NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.45pm

### Comedy James Rampton

WHEN JACK DEE was wearing short trousers rather than snappy suits, Norman Lovett was out on the comedy circuit patenting the art of the deadpan. Dee even calls him "one of my favourite comedians". Now in his fifties, Lovett is slightly taken back that the style he pioneered has become trendy. "It has taken off," he affirms. "Jack's got that sneaky attitude - Paul Merton, too. Perhaps a lot of people are really like that, and what we say on stage is what they'd like to say." He is in a deadpan double act with Hattie Hayridge, the other stand-up who played Holly the Computer, in a *Red Dwarf* Night at the Newcastle Comedy Festival.

*Live Theatre, Quayside, Newcastle* (0191-232 1232) 8pm  
The inimitable Arthur Smith (right), the finest MC known to man, comperes a benefit in aid of the Neo-Natal Unit at St George's Hospital, Tooting. Featured on the bill is the promising newcomer Dan Antopoliski. *The Bedford, London SW12* (01444 41342) 8pm



### POP Tim Perry

FOR TOO long the Levellers (right) and their fans have been stereotyped as hopeless dog-on-a-piece-of-string types, but the reality is quite different. Always appreciative of their (surprisingly diverse) audience, they never fail to put on a good night of entertainment, with their folk-punk rock proving a perfect catalyst for a boozy evening. This tour promotes their *Best of... album*.

*Ulster Hall, Belfast* (01232 329635) 7.30pm  
One of the best double bills during the ORIS London Jazz Festival features two excellent worldbeat outfits. Madagascar's Tarika promise to be both a musical and visual treat, delivering traditional music with the energy of garage rock. Cosmopolitan Lo'Jo, based in Angers, France, were a major hit at this year's WOMAD festival. Their intense mix of Arabic melodies, Romany fiddling, African rhythms and other sounds from around the world can be heard on the recent, recommended *Mojo Radio* album.  
*Queen Elizabeth Hall, London SE1* (0171-960 4242) 7.45pm



### Theatre Dominic Cavendish

ONCE AGAIN, the Almeida has utilised the greater space of its West End second home to create a backdrop as elegant as Racine's verse. But there is much more to admire in Jonathan Kent's modern-dress *Britannicus* - which has joined the acclaimed *Phedre* title in repertory - than Maria Bjornson's exquisitely realised corridor of power. Diana Rigg (below) is awe-some as the calculating matriarch, Agrippina, struggling to claw back authority from Tiberius' creepily conflicted Nero.

*Albany Theatre, London WC2* (0171-369 1740) 7.30pm  
Parv Bancel's *Made In England* is a fascinating précis of the tensions inherent in the notion of Anglo-Asian culture. A bitter punk musician watches in disgust as his young protégé betrays the older generation's struggle for uncompromised recognition by becoming a light-weight Asian pop star. Bancel keeps you hooked to the polemic, even if it is by increasingly melodramatic means.  
*Electra Theatre, London NW1* (0171-482 4571) 9.30pm



## CINEMA WEST END

**ABC BAKER STREET** (0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street  
Elizabeth 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm  
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

**ABC PANTOM STREET** (0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Armageddon 1.55pm, 7.50pm, 9.30pm  
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
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Mulan 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm  
A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries 5.10pm

**ABC PICCADILLY** (0171-287 4322) (from 1pm)  
Le Bous 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
The Spanish Prisoner 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE** (0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
The Government 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 8.30pm  
1 West You 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE** (0870-502 0403) @ Leicester Square  
Snake Eyes 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH** (0870-050007) @ Marble Arch  
Antz 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9pm  
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm  
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Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm  
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

**ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE** (0870-050007) @ Leicester Square  
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The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm  
Halloween: H20 5pm, 9.45pm  
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm  
Still Crazy 2.35pm, 7.20pm  
The Truman Show 1.55pm, 4.30pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm

**ODEON KENSINGTON** (0870-050007) @ High Street  
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Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm







# WEDNESDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.9-98.9MHz FM)  
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.  
12.00 Jo Wiley. 12.40 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce.  
8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.10 John Peel. 12.00 Gilles Peterson. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 MRS Harding. 8.00 Al Singing. All Dancing. All Night. 10.00 Radio 2 Classic Albums. See *Pick of the Day*.  
10.30 Richard Allison. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week.  
11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy.  
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. See *Pick of the Day*.  
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.  
3.00 Choral Evensong.  
5.00 Tune.  
7.30 Performance on 3. The first part of the London Symphony Orchestra's Shostakovich retrospective, conducted by the composer's friend Mstislav Rostropovich earlier this year, was very well received. Over the next two weeks Performance on 3 features the second part of their series as the last eight symphonies complete the cycle. London Symphony Orchestra/Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Symphony No 9; Symphony No 8.  
9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 3. Feminist writer Sadie Plant sees the Internet as a liberating space for women and believes they will be empowered by technology in the next century.  
9.45 Songs by Stenhammar. The Wanderer; A Ship Sails; Miss Blonde and Miss Brunette; Coastal

## PICK OF THE DAY

**FLEETWOOD MAC** (right) is the focus of Classic Albums (10pm R2) tonight which looks at *Rumours*. The band members describe the affairs and breakdown behind a record which, apart from selling millions, supplied the theme music for the BBC's Formula 1 coverage and Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. More music can be found in *Costing the Earth* (9pm R4).

which returns with a look at what progress has been made since an EC report five years ago condemned pollution levels in the North Sea. The Lunchtime Concert (1pm R3) features the pianist Alexandre Tharaud and clarinetist Ronald van Spaendonck in an appealing programme of Weber, Berg, Schumann and Poulenc.

ROBERT HANKS



**Song** (Songs and Moods, Op 26). Anne Sofie von Otter (soprano), Bengt Forsberg (piano).  
10.00 Ensemble. Mozart's friends had to be rather thick-skinned to withstand his ribald wit and practical jokes, but they were rewarded with some miraculous music. Penny Gore investigates Mozart's friendships with the cabaret Friedrich Ramm, the horn player-cum-cheesemonger Ignaz Leutgeb, and the composer's skittle-playing partner Anton Stadler. Including: Oboe Quartet in F, K370. Gaudier Ensemble. Trio in E flat, K498 (Kegelstatt). Emma Johnson (clarinet), James Boyd (viola), Ian Brown (piano).  
10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright discusses the work of sculptor Louise Bourgeois, who remains prolific at the age of 87 but whose new work engages subtly with death as well as eroticism. Plus first-night news from English National Opera's new production of Boris Godunov. Francesca Zambello directs Musorgsky's epic tale of the guilt-ridden tyrant and his country.  
11.30 Jazz Notes.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R)  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**12.00 NEWS:** You and Yours. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Worldly Wise. (R)  
2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.45 Afternoon Play: Strange Meeting.  
3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Powerful Substances. 3.45 Cautionary Tales. 4.00 NEWS: Case Notes. 4.30 Thinking Allowed. 5.00 PM.  
6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Rainer Hersch's All Classical Music Explained.  
7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson delivers the verdict on 'Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas', Terry Gilliam's film of the notorious book by Hunter S. Thompson. 7.45 Still Waters. By Ann Marie Di Mambro. Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish Borders. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott, Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 3.  
8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves, David Starkey and David Cook cross-examine guests on the moral and ethical issues behind one of the week's controversies. 8.45 Karmic Compensation. Nick Walker, who strode confidently into the world of international journalism ten years ago, writes home

about the way his new career in a wheelchair has blocked a hundred paths but opened a thousand sliding doors. Nick wheels and deals his way to a first-class ticket across Europe.  
9.00 NEWS: Costing the Earth. Five years ago, nations surrounding the North Sea were shamed by a report describing how they were polluting their own back yard, and Britain came in for particular criticism. But Brussels - the city which is pointing the finger - turns out to be one of the worst offenders. Presenter Guy Linley Adams. See *Pick of the Day*.  
9.30 Midweek Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversation. 10.00 The World Tonight.  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meaulme. Philip Frank reads Alain-Fournier's classic story of adolescent idealism, love and the search for the lost domain. Abridged by Doreen Laidlaw. (G/10).  
11.00 Five Squeezed Pieces. Offbeat comedy sketches and poems written and performed by Claire Calman, Julia Davis, Maria McKelara, Meera Syal and Arabella Weir. Additional material by Sarah Parkinson.  
11.30 Radio Shuttleworth. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping. 12.45 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

**PERHAPS** THE most famous of Egyptian queens is back in the news as this week's *The Great Egyptians* (10pm Discovery) reassesses her life. It seems that far from being the irresistible seductress of popular myth, Cleopatra was, in fact, not a very remarkable-looking woman, and was driven solely by a desire to protect her children. Shot at Armon, the film reveals a crypt below the temple at Dendera where Cleopatra offered up

sacrifices to the gods. Taking time off from directing his own Shakespearean productions, Kenneth Branagh appears as an actor in someone else's. In Oliver Parker's reading of *Othello* (11.45pm Sky Premier), he makes a suitably devious Iago, wickedly encouraging his commanding officer, Othello (Laurence Fishburne), to do away with his loyal new wife, Desdemona (Irene Jacob).



Exposed (8794633). 11.30 Real Lives: Ashes to Ashes (879404). 12.00 First Playing with Fire (8523582). 1.00 First Fights (8425252). 1.30 Wheel Nuts (755833). 2.00 Close.  
**SKY ONE**  
2.00 The Simpsons (8140). 2.30 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (8070). 6.30 Hollywood Squares (88324). 9.00 Gullity (8533). 10.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (7458). 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8585). 12.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (844853). 12.35 The Special K Collection (860783). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (8798514). 1.55 The Special K Collection (8698833). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (832275). 2.25 The Special K Collection (802362). 3.00 Jenny Jones (8004445). 3.45 The Special K Collection (80140). 4.00 Gullity (8590). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1492). 6.00 Married with Children (8275). 6.30 Friends (8227). 7.00 The Simpsons (821). 7.30 Real TV (411). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (5087). 9.00 The X-Files (80053). 10.00 Millennium (822336). 11.00 Friends (8593). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (45343). 12.30 Deep Space Nine (45343). 1.30 Long Play (4444893).

**SKY SPORTS 1**  
2.00 Sky Sports Centre (7300482). 7.55 World Wrestling Federation Live Wire (86508). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 9.30 Racing News (8312). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7770). 9.30 The Footballers' Football Show (86459). 10.30 Inside Scottish Football (8546). 11.30 Fastnet (8585). 12.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (7770). 12.30 Worthington Cup Football (82175). 2.00 Sports Unlimited (85324). 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (82701). 4.00 The Footballers' Football Show (84503). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (8553). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 6.45 Fastnet (8585). 7.00 Pool (8712). 8.00 Ringo (8546). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (84514). 10.30 Pool (86440). 11.30 Unbelievable Sports (73532). 12.30 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 1.30 Pool (8712). 2.00 Pool (8712). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 3.45 Close.

**SKY SPORTS 2**  
2.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (873053). 2.30 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 2.45 Racing News (859140). 3.45 Fastnet (8585). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 4.45 Sky Sports Centre (859140). 5.00 Fishing News (734614). 6.00 American Football Notre Dame vs Baylor (818242). 6.30 Ford Focus Special: Story of the Ford Cup (859140). 7.00 Ford Focus (859140). 7.30 Olympics: Golden Moments (859140). 8.00 Best of All Time Football: League XI (8480770). 11.30 Close.  
**EUROSPORT**  
2.00 Football: Eurogoals (8237). 9.00 Weightlifting (8140). 11.00 Sailing Magazine (859140). 12.00 Tennis (8303). 12.30 Tennis (8303). 1.30 Weightlifting (84710). 2.45 Tennis (859140). 3.30 Tennis (859140). 4.00 Weightlifting (859140). 5.00 Darts (8710). 10.00 Boxing (859140). 11.00 Speedworld (8489). 12.00 Weightlifting (859140). 12.30 Close.  
**UK GOLD**  
2.00 Crossroads (828904). 2.30 Neighbours (824665). 2.55 EastEnders (858087). 3.30 The Bill (846503). 3.50 The Bill (858088). 4.30 Bargers (842885). 5.00 Angels (859072). 5.30 Westcountry Live (859072). 6.00 Neighbours (857921). 12.25 EastEnders (828214). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (875196).

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**BBC1 N IRELAND**  
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline (879). 10.00 Home Truth (85140). 10.40 Best of British (85814). 11.25 The Day the Gulls Fell Silent (86217). 12.15 Film: Footloose (859034). 2.00 BBC News 24 (85909).

**BBC1 SCOTLAND**  
As BBC1 London except: 12.25 Woman (832071). 12.40 Spagulatidan Ann-Cathal (85216). 12.45 Grain agus Rannan (8763625). 6.00 News (827). 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (879). 9.30 QED (8798). 10.00 Ex-S (879). 10.30 Best of British (85814). 11.25 The Day the Gulls Fell Silent (86217). 12.15 Film: Footloose (859034). 2.00 BBC News 24 (85909).

**BBC1 WALES**  
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (879). 10.00 The Silver Screen (85140). 10.40 Best of British (85814). 11.25 The Day the Gulls Fell Silent (86217). 12.15 Film: Footloose (859034). 2.00 BBC News 24 (85909).

**ANGLO**  
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglo News and Weather (813256). 1.00 Split Screen (83275). 1.30 Home and Away (7518). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show

(874607). 5.40 Shortland Street (818072). 6.00 Home and Away (72336). 6.25 Anglo News (844548). 10.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 10.30 Anglo News (844548). 11.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 11.30 Anglo News (844548). 12.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 12.30 Anglo News (844548). 1.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 1.30 Anglo News (844548). 2.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 2.30 Anglo News (844548). 3.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 3.30 Anglo News (844548). 4.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 4.30 Anglo News (844548). 5.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 5.30 Anglo News (844548). 6.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 6.30 Anglo News (844548). 7.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 7.30 Anglo News (844548). 8.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 8.30 Anglo News (844548). 9.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 9.30 Anglo News (844548). 10.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 10.30 Anglo News (844548). 11.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 11.30 Anglo News (844548). 12.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 12.30 Anglo News (844548). 1.00 ITN News: Weather (8183). 1.30 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